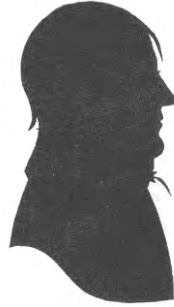


SETTLING THE MAINE WILDERNESS



Moses Greenleaf, Maine's First Mapmaker

Lesson 2

People Who Moved to Maine

SUBJECT

Moses Greenleaf and others who moved to Maine in the early 1800s, their reasons for moving there, and the assets they brought

STUDENTS WILL

- Identify highlights of Moses Greenleaf's life
- Identify reasons people moved to Maine in the early 1800s

VOCABULARY *See note regarding vocabulary in "How to Use" section*

Continental Army, Revolutionary War, agent for the Penobscot Indians, dado, Shay's Rebellion, catechism, metes, intervale, Masons, Millerites, vagrancy, petitioner, cheval de frise, Esquire, fifer, gentleman farmer, titles, Justice of the Peace

PREPARATION

1. Read Chapter 8 of *Settling the Maine Wilderness*, "Friends and Neighbors," pages 39-44, the "Introduction to Moses Greenleaf" and the "Greenleaf Primer."
2. Copy the above and the worksheet for each student.

BODY OF LESSON

Activity 1.

Have the students read the “Introduction to Moses Greenleaf” and the “Moses Greenleaf Primer.” Briefly discuss the important ideas.

(Knowledge, Comprehension)

Activity 2.

Have the students read the text from *Settling the Maine Wilderness* and complete the student worksheet. **(Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis)**

ASSESSMENT

Were student responses accurate, complete and organized?

EXTENSIONS

1. Ask the students which of Moses Greenleaf’s friends and neighbors they would have particularly liked to have met, and why? **(Application, Evaluation, Synthesis)**

2. Ask the students how Moses’ personality and goals were similar or different from others who settled in Maine at the time. **(Analysis)**

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Directions:

Creating a happier, wiser, freer community was important to Moses Greenleaf, and many people who moved to Maine in the early 1800s helped contribute to his vision. From your reading, recall the assets (either tangible or intangible) of each person listed below that may have furthered Greenleaf's dream. Then think about what might have motivated each person to move to Maine and record your ideas below. When you have finished, compare your ideas with a partner.

	ASSETS	MOTIVATION
Maj. Samuel Stickney		
Oliver Crosby		
Judge Henry Orne		
Park Holland		
Capt. Ezekial Chase		
Alexander Greenwood		
Maj. William Hammatt		
James Stuart Holmes		
Col. Joseph Lee		
William D. Williamson		

Teacher Reference Sheet

Vocabulary:

Continental Army: the first U.S. Army, which fought for independence from Great Britain

Justice of the Peace: a county court official who ruled on cases of a minor nature, witnessed legal papers, and performed marriages

titles: men were often referred to by their military or judicial titles after retirement

Esquire: a title of courtesy used often by lawyers

fifer: a young man who played in a fife and drum corps in the Continental Army

Gentleman farmer: a person whose wealth allows him to farm for pleasure rather than income

Agent for the Penobscot Indians: the person selected to represent the State government in day-to-day dealings with the tribe.

judge: a public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court

dado: the lower part of a wall

catechism: instruction in the Christian faith

metes: the straight-line boundaries of property as defined by distance and direction

intervale: the fertile low land around a body of water that floods first after a heavy rain

Shay's Rebellion: a post-Revolutionary War conflict between Massachusetts farmers and merchants, 1786-1787

Masons: a fraternal organization with principles based on the ancient art of freemasonry or bricklaying

Millerites: an 1830s-40s religious group that believed the second coming of Christ was imminent

vagrancy: the state of wandering and having no place to live

petitioner: someone who requests or demands something using a petition, a paper signed by

several people

cheval de fries: a moveable blockade used for defense during war, sometimes a log with protruding spikes to slow advancing armies

WORKSHEET ANSWERS

Major Samuel Stickney

Assets: Stickney had served 8 years in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, where he advanced from fifer to Major. He was disciplined and strong, settled in Brownville, and delivered mail and freight from Bangor.

Motivation: Many men who served in the Revolutionary War later moved to Maine, sometimes because they received plots of land for their service.

Oliver Crosby

Assets: Educated at Harvard College, graduated in 1795, second in his class

Before moving to Maine, Crosby practiced law in Portsmouth, NH, owned a cotton mill, and was part-owner of a ship. In 1820, he bought 700 acres of land in Atkinson, ME, where he grew wheat and corn, built a large house, employed servants, imported china and wine, and lived as a gentleman farmer. Crosby also created a home library, which was open to the public.

He was intelligent and successful in business and so brought his wealth and interest in education to Maine.

Motivation: Men who had been economically successful in their careers were attracted by the open land in Maine and often moved there with their families to become gentlemen farmers.

Judge Henry Orne

Assets: Practiced law in Kentucky, was involved in national politics, lived in Ohio and then on a Southern plantation. Orne settled in Orneville, ME after becoming disillusioned with politics. He married the daughter of the owner of a township in Maine, became the agent, built a mill and manor house with a deer park, gardens and orchards, employed former slaves, and the town was named for him.

Motivation: Men who had been economically successful in their careers were attracted by the open land and new opportunities in Maine.

Park Holland

Assets: Holland had served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

He moved to Maine in 1793 and settled in Eddington in 1824. He made his living as a surveyor, and spent much time exploring the wild lands of Maine, growing to become the most knowledgeable person about Maine's interior. The knowledge he acquired helped him serve as agent for the Penobscot Indians.

Motivation: Men like Holland who had served in the army came to Maine to continue the outdoor life they experienced in the military. Holland enjoyed living in and exploring the woods and was drawn to the wild lands of Maine.

Captain Ezekial Chase

Assets: Chase served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1802, he built a new home in Sebec and made his living trapping, farming, surveying, and doctoring.

Motivation: Army veterans came to Maine to start a new life after the Revolutionary War and use some of the skills they had acquired in the service.

Alexander Greenwood

Assets: Surveyor, logger

Motivation: Greenwood was interested in the natural resources available in Maine

Major William Hammatt

Assets: Hammatt purchased a half interest in the township of Sebois and spent the years 1823 to 1826 away from his family, surveying the town.

Motivation: Veterans like Hammatt came to Maine to start a new life after the Revolutionary War and use some of the skills they had acquired in the service.

James Stuart Holmes

Assets: Holmes was educated at Brown College. He settled in Foxcroft, ME, where he made a living as a lawyer and was also appointed a Justice of the Peace. He joined the Masons, and became a trustee of Foxcroft Academy.

Motivation: Lawyers came to Maine to pursue their profession in a growing state with few lawyers.

Colonel Joseph Lee

Assets: Lee was the agent of the township of Milo, ran a mill, and co-founded the Penobscot Bank. He commanded a local militia company, was appointed Commissioner of the Land Office, was elected as a representative to the legislature, worked to open up roads north of Bangor, negotiated a treaty with the Penobscot Indians to open up both sides of the Penobscot River to settlement, and petitioned for the creation of the Bangor & Piscataquis Canal and Railroad Company. Lee's experience in the army prepared him for taking leadership roles in the development of the state.

Motivation: Army officers who had served in the Revolutionary War came to Maine for land and opportunity.

William D. Williamson

Assets: historian, researcher, lawyer. Williams' education and historical interests led to his important documentation of Maine's early history.

Motivation: Educated people came to Maine to pursue their interests and participate in shaping the unwritten history of a frontier state

Chapter Eight

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



*Nor knowest thou what argument, Thy life to thy neighbor's creed has lent.
All are needed by each one; Nothing is fair or good alone.*

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, "EACH AND ALL" (1839)

Meeting a few of Moses Greenleaf's neighbors is a way of better understanding the Maine in which he lived and, by extension, Greenleaf himself. Times were when the thrushes sang along the edges of a hundred fields and pastures that made a quilt of sunlit squares upon the hillsides north of the Piscataquis River. Now the woods are back; not the tall forests that Moses and his neighbors found, but second and third growth, smaller and more dense. One stands by a fallen wall, under an old apple tree grown tall in reaching for sunlight amid the crowding trees, and one wonders: What brought these people here?

The advertisements that men like Greenleaf and Joseph Foxcroft printed to lure settlers to their townships give us a clue. Here was good soil and water, a place where industrious people might make themselves independent. Against the old life of serfdom and the new life of industrial tenancy, this land offered a chance to be free if one had the courage. A man and woman might, when the morning fog was on the pasture, rise from their bed and see no world but that which they owned. One

could come in from the field when the last rays of the sun turned the edge of the woods to amber and shadow and know that it was one's own labor that had made a place of grass, corn, and cows.

The view from Moses' front door ranged from east to west and southward forty-five miles to where the Dixmont Hills broke the rim of the horizon. It became a view dotted with the farms of friends and neighbors. Here were the households of restless men and women looking for a simpler stability, a chance to get away, to establish respectability, and to start anew.

Dwellers on Hilltops

Samuel Stickney lived near the top of a high ridge east of Brownville. He had been born in Rowley, Massachusetts, and at the age of sixteen joined Captain Moses Greenleaf's regiment as a fifer. Eight years later he was discharged from the Continental army with the rank of major.

Major Stickney was a powerful man with a ruddy complexion. His build ran to shoulders rather than to height, though he lacked but three inches of six feet. His legs were as strong as his shoulders and

served him well in delivering the mail from Bangor along with small freight, up to and including a hand loom that he lugged on his back the forty-five miles to Brownville. On one of his mail trips, he surprised a bear that had been napping beside a log. The bear jumped to its hind legs and for a startled second they faced each other; then Stickney clobbered the bear with a sack of potatoes he was toting. Major Stickney was not the type of man who allowed anything to deter him from his appointed rounds.

Oliver Crosby, Esquire, lived in Atkinson and put down his roots on a round hilltop above the Piscataquis. He was a graduate of Harvard, standing second in the class of 1795. He had practiced law in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, owned a cotton factory, and married the daughter of a Portsmouth ship owner. He had been part owner of a vessel, himself, until it was captured by the British.

In 1820 Crosby made up his mind to leave all this business and to move north where he could live as a gentleman farmer. He bought seven hundred acres of what proved to be excellent land. In their first season as farmers, Crosby and his sons raised 400 bushels of wheat and 150 bushels of Indian corn.

They lived in a log cabin, tending to first things first, which included building a barn twenty-two feet posted (from ground to eaves) and one hundred feet long. When the barn was raised, a neighbor climbed to the ridgepole and proposed a toast. Just at the dramatic moment, his bottle slipped from his upheld hand and plummeted to the ground. Bystanders gasped, but—bad omen or not—the barn stood and received a hundred harvests.

When Crosby built his house, it was a Portsmouth mansion once removed, as large and as solidly impressive but without the dado and the carved moldings. It was as fine a house as ever sat on hand-split Piscataquis granite: center hall and two stories, with a full attic large enough to sleep twenty extra men in haying season.

Crosby was probably living in his new house when Greenleaf and his wife visited him in the winter of 1824. Crosby lived in style. He had

servants he could call on a speaking tube, which ran from the cellar to the attic, and send them scurrying up or down their own narrow and twisting staircase, without bothering the rest of the household. There was special china for the guests who came on horseback from Sebec and by carryalls from Bangor; there was wine enough and cider aplenty stored in the cellar coolness under the brick arches that supported the fireplaces.

One entered the main hallway through a wide front door and immediately stood in the presence of pine paneling and a tall clock. One's eye followed the banister upward to where the stairway split to right and to left under a broad archway. Behind the arch were books filling the wall in rows of leather bindings and gilt lettering. Judge Atkinson, an absentee proprietor, had donated one hundred of these, to which Crosby had added many of his own. It was a considerable library and, on arrangement, open to the public.

Crosby lived as the squire of Atkinson, and when he died he was buried in an impressive grove of trees just north of his home. His family erected a slate stone, plain, but large enough to have engraved a brief chronicle of his life that ends with these lines:

He came to his grave in a full age as a shock of corn in its season, leaving to his children the noble heritage of a loved and honoured name. Mark the just and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace.

Judge Henry Orne was an aristocrat who had found the existing political power structure misguided and dishonest.¹ He was a nephew of Vice President Elbridge Gerry and had political ambitions of his own. He had hoped for a place on Jackson's cabinet and, when he failed to be appointed, soured on politics in general, and Jackson in particular. Orne married the niece of General Boyde, and it was as a manager of Boyde's township just south of the Piscataquis that he began a new life.²

He had been a traveler before his move to

Maine. Beginning his practice of the law in Kentucky, Orne had moved to Ohio and then back to a southern plantation. He arrived in Boyde's township with the experience necessary for running things, built a mill, straightened out a wrangle over taxes, and began the construction of his manor overlooking Boyde Lake. The plans of his estate included a deer park, which must have seemed odd to his neighbors. He spent a small fortune experimenting with orchards, gardens, and ornamental trees, which were tended by the former slaves he had brought with him. He had fine wines shipped from Boston and sent his team to meet guests who had come by boat to Bangor. He wrote poetry and cultivated his literary tastes. Before his death, Boyde's township had been named Orneville.

Surveying Friends

Park Holland was the dean of Maine surveyors. He began surveying in the district in 1793, after he had fought his way through the Revolution and, with mixed emotions, aided in the suppression of Shay's Rebellion. Holland's life is a study in sheer perseverance under conditions that would have made a lesser man pack up his compass and go home. He did his work in Maine on foot and by birch canoe, rod by rod and responsibly, according to his word.

By the time he came to live in Eddington, Maine, in 1824, he knew more about the interior of the district than any other White man and more about the Indians than most. For a time he acted as Indian agent to the Penobscot. On St. John's Day, Holland and his Masonic brethren in Bangor hosted a parade and a dinner for twenty-seven tribal leaders and government officials. It is tragic that generations to come would know nothing of this brief promise of mutual respect.

Men such as Park Holland were weathered tough and ingrained with a sense of what was fair. Holland, like Moses, had tried the business of keeping store. When the chance came to shoulder a pack, Holland had gone exploring. Unlike Greenleaf, he became a man of the woods. Invited

once to a formal tea, he found he couldn't stomach his bread spread with butter and that he fidgeted the entire time until he was with his men around the campfire.

Captain Ezekiel Chase of Sebec was a man who could have kept up with Holland or would have died trying. He was not up to Holland when it came to the mathematics of surveying, but he could run lines and he did so when he wasn't trapping, hunting, or forced to work around his farm. At seventeen Chase had run away from his home in Hallowell, Maine, to join the Continental army. He was returning for a furlough when he was captured and placed aboard the prison ship Jersey. During his two years as a prisoner, Chase caught both yellow fever and smallpox. Released, recuperated, and married, he cut a clearing on the Kennebec at Bingham, Maine, where he started a farm and a family. In 1802 Captain Chase moved again. He built a new home in the wilderness of Sebec. Besides trapping, farming, and surveying, he also did some doctoring, for which he was much respected. When Moses or Eben went surveying, Chase was the man to have along.

It was not simply a matter of his abilities with an ax, a surveyor's chain, and herbs that made Chase a good companion. There was a spirit in such men—a creed that was more than civil etiquette yet not nearly theological. A man took no more of the fire or the food than was his share, and he packed more than was his part. A man finished what he started, did what he promised, and practiced what he preached. His courtesy was not schooled in high society but came from having lived with men who kept going when the going was all uphill.

As to the faith of such men, there was no catechism. They might swear, but they knew better than to curse their God. Such men believed beyond argument that the metes and bounds of life are fixed and all events move toward a rightful end. They knew because the stars said so and the pines and the river were always murmuring that it was thus.

These men with whom Moses and Eben surveyed

and explored lived one day at a time. Death they knew could strike anyplace and anytime. Alexander Greenwood had cut his surveyor's mark, a capital G with a diagonal slash, upon the corner posts of many townships. He was cutting timber in Fullerstown and bringing his drive down Wilson Stream. The falls at Willimantic were treacherous, and when the crew had cleared the last log, Greenwood called them ashore to rest in the shade, eat lunch, and have a drink. While they sat, relaxed, perhaps joking now the danger was past, a freak wind sprang up; Greenwood was killed by a falling tree.³

Clearers of hilltops, runners of lines, woodsmen and farmers, searchers for respectability, escapees from a crabbed society, and risk takers—with them all Greenleaf shared many aspects of character and accomplishment, but he was also involved in making a town.

Makers and Guardians of Towns and Communities

There was a family connection between Major William Hammatt and Moses Greenleaf, but they shared a closer relationship in their mutual objective to settle a township and provide a new prosperity for their families. Hammatt was a year younger than Moses, and forty-six when they first met on a June evening in 1824. Hammatt had been invited to take tea in the Bangor home of Sheriff Bean, and Greenleaf was there. Hammatt wrote to his wife: "Mr. Bean introduced me to our cousin Judge Greenleaf, who is a very agreeable man, much like his brother Simon."⁴ Moses had urged Hammatt to visit Greenleaf Hill, and he promised to do so as soon as he could find the opportunity.

Hammatt was much involved in settling the township known as Seboeis that he and William Emerson of Bangor had purchased.⁵ According to the advertisement Hammatt placed in the Bangor Register, young men who wished "to make themselves independent with no other tool but an ax, no stock in trade but honesty, industry and sobriety" would find this land superior to "any in

the Old Colony." Seboeis was a township of interval, waterfalls, and timber. It had a natural site for a mill and was already a stopping place for rafts coming down its two rivers.

In the late summer of 1823 Hammatt had left his wife and family in Scituate, Massachusetts, and come north. Lumber was becoming the magic word along the Penobscot. Emerson assured Hammatt when he arrived in Bangor that in timber alone they were wealthy men. Traveling up the Penobscot by "Indian canoe," he received more confirmation of the value of his land. He was impatient to join the surveyors who were marking lots and anxious to take up his role as gentleman proprietor of Seboeis.

Hammatt's initiation began on the first day he traveled with his surveyors. The weather was sweating hot, and the ground that night was hard. He stoically decided it would become softer with use "as our best friends grow more agreeable with long acquaintance." The next day he inspected the falls on Seboeis Stream, upon which he decided to build a mill. That was pleasant, but the rest of the day wore on dismally. They traveled over and around a mass of blowdowns whose tangled branches and upturned roots reminded him of the steel spikes of a "cheval de frise" purposely placed to bark his shins and trip him headlong into the underbrush. As the days passed, the ground became no softer. Then came the day they ran lines through a swamp with no water to drink and only dry biscuits and salt pork to eat. Hammatt was stiff, sore, and tired since the "fleas" had given him no chance to sleep. His boots were slippery, and he was continually falling over a stump or catching his foot in a hidden nest of fallen tree limbs until his legs were "entirely black and blue." A pious Unitarian, Hammatt decided that all this unsteadiness and lameness was an indication of the encroaching years. He had better mind the admonition and look after his salvation. While doing so, he would wait for a better pair of boots before doing any more "bushwhacking."

His first official duty as the new proprietor was to attend the funeral of a little girl who had died "of a

worm complaint.” The neighbors followed the parents and their four remaining children to the little schoolhouse, where an older member of the settlement said the prayers, and then to what Hammatt called “a lonely hill” where the grave had been dug.

There were happier activities as well, or Hammatt might have gone back to Scituate. He took “sentimental” strolls through the woods along the river, studied where he would place his mills, and visited the settlers “to make them satisfied with their landlord and their bargains.” He found them respectful and eager to entertain—sometimes with very special things to eat such as pigeons freshly captured in a net.

Hammatt was away from his wife and family for much of three years. He was in Seboeis when his young son John Howland Hammatt died. His wife, Esther, had come to feel that her husband enjoyed his bachelor’s life. She wanted him back in Scituate, back to the old life they had known with a big house, friends, and a decent living. Her husband answered that her aversion to his township and her prejudice toward its people would certainly disappear the moment she came to know them firsthand. The soil, if given an opportunity, would become a “very garden of the world”; as for the people, he had heard but one profane word from those he had hired, and the man who had uttered it was to be discharged. These were honest folk. He could leave his house for a year without fear of theft. Esther came to join her husband in the days when he most needed her support. In 1826 he was again traversing his township, this time to survey the blackened cinders of what had been a fortune in pine and spruce.

Hammatt lived to the east of Moses, James Stuart Holmes to the west in the town of Foxcroft. Holmes was a graduate of Brown University and a classmate of Horace Mann. After college he studied law in the office of Enoch Lincoln in Paris, Maine, then in 1823 set up a practice of his own on the Piscataquis. Moses and Holmes were brother Masons, fellow keepers of the peace, and trustees of

the new Foxcroft Academy. In politics they also shared beliefs: Holmes supported Adams, greatly disliked Jackson, but unlike Moses became a Republican when the Federalist Party faded away. In 1878 he was carried to the polls to “cast his last vote for freedom.”

One incident will suffice to show the character of this man. In the town of Atkinson there was a small colony of Millerites who had too much of immediate cosmic concern upon their minds to bother anyone. However, they did make some commotion, and a group of proper citizens brought charges of vagrancy against them. Holmes offered to defend the Millerites without fee. The trial was a hectic one. The Millerites insisted on constant hymn singing and verbal prayer but, despite their help, he was able to win their case.

Holmes came to the land of the Piscataquis and stayed; so did Crosby and Stickney, Chase and Orne. But there was a constant movement among many of Moses’ neighbors and associates. Because transportation was so difficult and slow, we associate a certain homestead permanency with Moses’ era, but in fact there was considerable mobility.

Among Moses’ associates who came to live by the Piscataquis and then left was Colonel Joseph Lee. Like Moses, Lee was agent of a township—Milo, which shared a corner post with Williamsburg. Lee quickly became an important figure in “his” township. When a name for the town was being chosen, Leeville was considered. Like so many of the men who came to live along the Piscataquis, he had done an impressive number of things.

He first ran a mill in Orland, a town he had incorporated and named, co-founded the Penobscot Bank, commanded the local militia, was appointed commissioner of the Land Office by the commonwealth, and then was elected representative to the legislature during the years of the second war with Great Britain. As land commissioner he had been active in opening roads northward from Bangor and had negotiated a treaty with the tribal leaders that opened land on both

sides of the Penobscot. Later, when Moses Greenleaf proposed the Bangor and Piscataquis Canal and Railroad, Lee was one of the petitioners.

When the Lees first came to Milo, they joined the Congregational church in Brownville, which they regularly attended. Besides the colonel and his wife, Priscilla Spurhawk Lee, their two daughters took their places in the family pew. They were Mary Abigail and Martha Laurens. Moses' son Eben P. married Abigail while his other son, Moses Jr., married Martha.

Greenleaf shared attributes with his neighbors, yet he was unique. The only figure in Maine who approached Greenleaf in his capacity for research

and the collection of data was a young man who, during Moses' Bangor days, had studied law in the office of Jacob McGaw. This was William D. Williamson who, in 1832, published his two-volume history of Maine—1,374 pages synthesized from material gathered in more than twenty-five years of research.⁶

Both Williamson and Greenleaf represented a passion for discovery and the capacity for accomplishment. But for Moses, more than for Williamson or any of his neighbors, the vision of a happier, wiser, and freer community would not let him rest.

SETTLING THE MAINE WILDERNESS



Moses Greenleaf,
His Maps, and His Household of Faith, 1777-1834

Osher Map Library & Smith Center for Cartographic Education

www.usm.maine.edu/maps/home.html

Introduction to Moses Greenleaf Maine's First Mapmaker

In the years following the American Revolution, which was from 1775-1783, many people moved to the region that is now Maine. In fact, between the years 1790 and 1810, the population of Maine nearly doubled! One of the people who came to Maine during this time was a young boy named Moses Greenleaf, who would grow up to be the first cartographer (mapmaker) of the State of Maine.

Most people in early America were farmers, although some made a living in the growing cities. Shipbuilding, storekeeping, and carriage-making were profitable businesses in the cities. Many of the new settlers of Maine, including the Greenleafs, came from southern New England, particularly Massachusetts and Connecticut. The populations there had been growing rapidly and people were looking for more land for farming and for harvesting natural resources such as timber.

While many people were happy with the growing cities and prospering businesses of southern New England, others longed for a simpler way of life. The District of Maine, which was then part of Massachusetts, had large towns along the coast, but much of the interior was open and available for settlement. Land was inexpensive and plentiful, and Moses

Greenleaf's father was eager to move his family to a more rural environment.

In 1790, the Greenleafs left their home in Newburyport, Massachusetts, and moved to Peacock Hill, in New Gloucester, Maine. Captain Moses Greenleaf, father of the mapmaker, was determined to spend his "evenings by the fire and his days close to the soil." He was worried that wealth was becoming too important to many people in Newburyport, so he gave up his business to become a farmer and a country gentleman.

Moses the mapmaker was thirteen when the family moved to New Gloucester. The oldest of five children, he had spent his early years in Newburyport, a town booming with activity and widening interests. He learned draftsmanship and naval architecture from his father, and was a strong student, particularly in mathematics. He was an avid reader with an excellent memory and excellent penmanship. Although his formal education was not extensive, he had a solid background in the basic skills and a strong interest in everything around him.

Moses grew into an easy-going, likable young man with a quick mind and strong writing and speaking skills. When he turned twenty-one, he opened a store in New Gloucester, selling "razors, files, penknives, beef shad, tobacco by the pound, cider by the barrel, rum by the gill, blank books, gum paper, twine – in short, everything from tea to the pot in which to brew it."

Moses kept store for the next seven years, in several Maine towns. He taught school for awhile, but his greatest interest was in land, especially the land to the north, "where a man might own part of a township and live as an independent gentleman." His consuming interest in the land north of the Piscataquis River, along with the debt that came from his kindheartedness, ended his storekeeping career, and led him to a life promoting the sale of land in Maine.

In 1805 Moses married Persis Poor of Bangor, and shortly thereafter took a job as land agent for William Dodd, owner of a large tract of land in Maine. As land agent, Greenleaf agreed to settle and develop a new town near the Sebec River. The town was named Williamsburg, after William Dodd, and Moses and Persis moved there with their children on December 30 of 1810.

Moses Greenleaf had a vision for the kind of town he wished Williamsburg to become, and he spent the rest of his life working toward that vision. In 1814 he built a new home on Greenleaf Hill, and continued to encourage other members of his family to join him in Williamsburg. He established a town government, built a church and a school, and started

community organizations in an attempt to convince other people to move to the new town. He promoted the use of the area's natural resources, notably slate and iron, to create jobs for the people living in Williamsburg. He built roads and brought railroads to the area, so that people could move themselves and their products around. Eventually, stagecoach and mail service came to Williamsburg, signs of a successful settlement.

Moses became a distinguished member of the Williamsburg community, and he served as a Court Justice for several years. In his effort to encourage settlement in Maine, he worked to gather information about the interior sections of Maine. He took trips to survey and map the unsettled land, and collected geographical information about lakes, rivers, mountains, resources, and climate. Greenleaf then published books and maps describing the land and encouraging people to move there.

In 1815 Moses Greenleaf's first map of the District of Maine was printed. Although other maps of the area existed, Moses' maps were important because they showed geographical features, distances, and other aspects of the Maine landscape that had not been widely known before his maps were published. Moses continually updated his maps and produced the first map of Maine when it became a state in 1820, making him Maine's first cartographer. After publishing two books and several maps, Moses Greenleaf died in 1834. A monument to him was erected in 1947 to acknowledge his contributions to the settlement of Maine.

After Moses died, his son Moses Jr. helped to promote and publish more of Moses' detailed maps and information. Moses' maps helped encourage settlement throughout Maine, but his own town of Williamsburg reverted to a township when its population declined after mass migration to the mid-western states following the Civil War. Even so, Moses Greenleaf's foresight in helping to make people aware of the geography and resources of Maine was so important that he deserves to be remembered as one of principal founders of the State of Maine.