

Melton Stephen A
 Form 4
 March 22, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Melton Stephen A

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 P.O. BOX 3668
 (Street)
 MOULTRIE, GA 31776

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 03/20/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 EVP & Chief Risk Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Amount or Price | | |
| Common | 03/20/2012 | | A | (1) | 4,000 \$ 13.15 | | D |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 6) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Melton Stephen A P.O. BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776 | | | EVP & Chief Risk Officer | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|------------|
| Stephen A. Melton, by Cara P. Horne, Attorney In Fact | 03/22/2012 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person | Date |

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
 - ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- Restricted stock grant pursuant to the Ameris Bancorp Omnibus Stock Ownership and Long-Term Incentive Plan, vesting on March 20, (1) 2016 based upon the achievement of annual performance; provided, however, that vesting shall be limited by any restrictions applicable to participants in the Troubled Assets Relief Program.
- Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.