

Melton Stephen A  
Form 3  
October 19, 2011

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 \*

Â Melton Stephen A  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement

(Month/Day/Year)  
10/18/2011

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

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

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

P.O. BOX 3668

(Street)

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_X\_ Officer \_\_\_ Other  
(give title below) (specify below)  
EVP & Chief Risk Officer

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

MOULTRIE,Â GAÂ 31776

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)

Date Exercisable      Expiration Date

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

Title      Amount or Number of Shares

4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security

5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

Stephen A. Melton, by Cara P. Dean,  
Attorney-In-Fact

10/19/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

### No securities are beneficially owned

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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