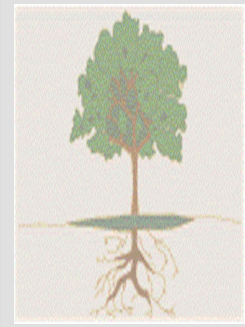


Summer 2007

Issue: 19



*McVicker, Moreland,
Pinnell;
Scruggs; and allied
families*



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary



**FEATURE ARTICLE NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN OUR
FAMILY TREE AT ROOTSWEB WHAT'S NEW AT OUR WEBSITE?? SURNAME
SEARCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Hello Everyone;

Welcome to the SUMMER 2007 issue of this family newsletter. We've included you on our mailing list because you are close family, a gen-cousin or genealogist who shares a common interest of searching for information on the family surnames associated with our maternal family line.

The subject of our feature article is our 7th great-grandfather James Kerr. This narrative tells of how James and other Scots-Irish families were among the first to move into the Great Valley of Virginia and settle what was to become Augusta County.

The MORELAND surname is featured in the "Surname Search" section. "Surname Search" displays matches of a surname in our database to the huge resources found at RootsWeb.com.

In addition to some general topics of interest to the family historian we have also included an update on our maternal family database online at Rootsweb's WorldConnect Project, and recent happenings with regard to the website at RootsWeb's Freepages. A quarterly accounting of our database at Rootsweb shows that nine new direct ancestral family lines were uncovered. In addition new records on 146 individuals have been added.

As always we will attempt to keep the newsletter brief but informative and hope you will eading it. If you do not want to remain on my mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending to you.

A QUOTE TO NOTE

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These are but trifles, to be sure; but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable."

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Kerr Family of Augusta County, Virginia

During the first half of the 1700's there came to America a great influx of bold, adventurous Scottish Protestants who boarded ships at the northern Ireland port of Belfast and sailed for the colonies eventually landing in William Penn's colony of Pennsylvania. These Scots-Irish immigrants were offspring of lowland Presbyterians who had moved out of their ancient homeland of Scotland after 1607 in response to English inducements to colonize northern Ireland and grab up cheap farmland in what was then referred to as the Ulster Plantation. Discouraged by the treatment they received from the English and native Irish, the younger sons and daughters of transplanted Ulster Scots began to move to America after 1700.

Because of Pennsylvania's reputation for religious tolerance most of the Ulstermen and their families made their way to ports along the Delaware River such as Philadelphia and New Castle. Eventually many of these people, among them our Kerr, Robertson, and Douglass ancestors found their way to the western frontier of the Virginia colony and settled in great numbers in that area of the Shenandoah Valley now known as Augusta County.

The progenitor of our branch of this Kerr family in America is believed to be James Kerr born around 1685 in either Scotland or Ireland. The journey of James and the Kerr family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Augusta County, Virginia appears to be quite typical of those early 18th century pioneers. The Kerr family is initially found prior to 1722 in Donegal Township, Lancaster County. John and Malcolm Ker (Kerr) appear for the first time on the 1724 Donegal assessment list. Most of the first settlers of this community were from the area of east Donegal, whose presbytery, the Laggan Presbytery, supplied the Donegal church with its first ministry.

In 1735, inhabitants of Chester and Lancaster counties signed a petition for a road from John Harris' ferry to the Edward Kennison plantation in the Great (Shenandoah) Valley. John and Andrew Pickens, John, James, and David Kerr, and others signed the petition. Subsequent to this event the Kerr families moved west along the "Great Wagon Road" from Lancaster County to the area around present day Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. From here they most likely followed the what was then called the "Warriors Path" south into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Accompanying them was the Pickens family. Both families appear in Orange (later Augusta) County, Virginia prior to 1740.

The story of the Kerr's journey into the frontier of the Virginia Colony is best illustrated through accounts of a fellow Presbyterian Scot, Andrew Pickens, who came into Philadelphia before 1720 from Ulster. Andrew was the progenitor of the famous Pickens family of South Carolina. His son Andrew, born in 1739, was to command South Carolina forces in the Revolutionary War. A grandson and great-grandson would become governors of South Carolina. The intimacy of both families is fact and well documented. As such it is most probable that they lived and traveled together into the Great Valley of Virginia. Encouraged by fellow emigrants, they first went westward to Paxton Township, near the later town of Harrisburg. Accordingly, the families pulled up stakes in the late in 1739, loaded their horses with family goods, and started south over the "Warrior's Path"



George Caleb Bingham's famous painting depicts pioneers traveling through the Cumberland Gap of the Virginia.

toward the cheaper lands in Virginia. Crossing the Potomac River by Williams' or Watkins Ferry, near the later site of Williamsport, they followed the narrow footpath along the Shenandoah River. Past occasional clearings in the forest of the Valley of Virginia, they came after many days' journey to a gap in an earlier trail, named Buffalo Gap. There, seventeen miles southwest of the valley near a way station that would eventually grow into the town of Staunton, and later the county seat of Augusta county, Virginia, they cleared land and began to develop a farm.

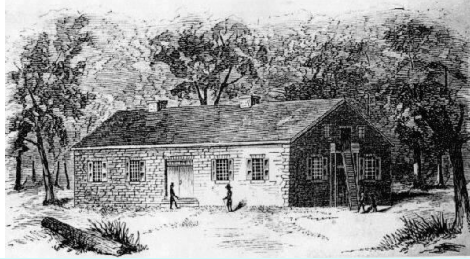
The Kerr's settled at a choice spot at the juncture of Christian's Creek, Long Meadow Run, and Middle River. A log home built by the family was near the beginning point of a survey made in 1736 for the Beverley Manor lands out of which all settlers of the area obtained their titles. James Kerr built the aforementioned log house on Middle River between 1738-1740; it was still standing as late as 1954. This house was used as an early meeting and courthouse for the newly formed county of Augusta (created out of Orange County in 1745.). This building was a rather large structure, as it was needed to house his large family that recently arrived from Pennsylvania. The pioneer home of the Kerr Family is pictured and described in the book entitled Old Homes of Augusta County by Gladys B. Clem. James Kerr was among the first settlers of Beverley Manor whose title deeds are recorded in Orange County. This record states that James Kerr had a grant for 473 acres of land. Maps of the northeastern section of Beverley's Manor show this tract on a stream that appears to be called Meadows Run, which empties into Cathey's River. The land is south of the bend in Cathey's River on which James Kerr's son John settled.

In 1740 the Donegal Presbyterian Society in Pennsylvania, of which the Kerr's were members, directed the Reverend John Craig, who had recently arrived from Ireland, to accept a call to minister among the Presbyterians in the Valley of Virginia. Traveling along the path to Augusta County, he established the Augusta Stone Church at Fort Defiance located eight miles north of Staunton. A year later he planted another church at Tinkling Spring, near the future town of Lexington, Virginia. The Kerr surname appears in records of the Stone Church, as well as in the history of the Tinkling Springs church. James Kerr took a leadership role in the earliest records of the Tinkling Spring church as noted by the fact that he is among the subscribers to the 14 August 1741 petition to build a Presbyterian meetinghouse at Tinkling Spring.

EVOLUTION OF TINKLING SPRING CHURCH



Tinkling Spring Church was officially founded in 1740. The first meeting house was a log cabin measuring twenty-four by fifty feet.



Interest in building a new meetinghouse began in 1777 when the subscribers agreed to pay the costs. However, completion of the building was delayed by the war and it wasn't until about 1792 that the Stone Sanctuary shown here was completed.



The present church building was erected in 1849 and remodeled in 1916.

During his years in Augusta County James became quite active as a community leader. In 1745, he was made an overseer of the road between the mountains above Thompson's ford and Tinkling Spring. In that same year his name, along with son Andrew, was placed upon a list as one of the original panel of magistrates for Augusta County. During his life in Virginia James was involved in many land transactions. Of note is one from 1750 where James is identified as "late of Lancaster County Pennsylvania", and another in 1760 where land was sold to James Kerr, a blacksmith. James died sometime early in 1770.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Need A DAR Lookup?

Do you think you might have an ancestor who served in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)? Would you like to know whether your ancestor is listed with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in the "Patriot Index"?

A helpful group of organized DAR Volunteers monitor the RootsWeb DAR Message Board every day and welcome lookup requests. Include your Revolutionary War-era ancestor's first and last name, spouse's name (if known), dates of birth, death, and state of residence. When posting your lookup request. You need not be interested in joining the NSDAR to request a lookup.

National D-Day Memorial Foundation

The National D-Day Memorial Foundation is seeking oral histories, written reminiscences, diaries, ship's logs, letters, photographs, published histories of units involved in the invasion and personal recollections of D-Day veterans. The National D-Day Memorial Foundation Oral History can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.dday.org/index.php?page=oralhistory>.

Research Tips

In this section we will pass along some tips and tricks that may assist you in breaking down those “brick walls” that all of us encounter during our research. We intend to present a new idea or two in each subsequent newsletter so please feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions for tips & time saving tricks to add to include in future columns.

Use Tax Records

Death and taxes may be the only two certainties in life, but it seems that even genealogists try to avoid them. Where they survive (usually found in municipal archives or court houses), tax records can be a fantastic resource, because unlike censuses, they are generally created every year. This means that you can track your ancestor year by year and mark his progress, or lack thereof. All sorts of information can be included in tax records, but generally you will find your ancestor's address or place of residence, the amount of land he owned or rented, and its value. You may also find his age, the rough ages of the other members of his household (in age ranges, such as "females, over age 45"), his occupation, his religion, the amount of livestock he owned (and its value) and the numbers of dogs, carriages, windows (or whatever else was being taxed at the time!) he had.

Submitted by Tom Peiffer

Keep Track of Your Objective

Random research may be fun, but eventually you'll look back on your pile of research notes and wonder where you've gotten and how you got there, and whether you'll have to do it all over again to figure it out. So try to focus from the start and keep careful records of your objectives for each research session, and for each record you searched. This way you'll make more noticeable progress and when you review your work, you'll be able to tell what you searched for and why, and what you might have missed. This will help you determine whether or not you need to re-examine the same records once new information comes to light or whether you can safely say you've covered that base and move on.

Submitted by Tom Peiffer



OUR FAMILY TREE AT ROOTSWEB



New Generations Added To The WADE and ROSS Family Lines EDNEY, JACKSON, LAWSON, MASON, MOFFAT, MOLYNS, ROYSTON, SMITH, and TOMSON Surnames Added To Our Database.

An updated version of our database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **146** new names have been added to our database over the past three months. We now have information on **2,322** persons, which include, not only ancestral grandparents, but also aunts, uncles, and cousins. Since we update the database quarterly to coincide with the publishing of this newsletter our readers are all reminded to take a look at what is new with our family history research. If you do check the websites out you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may find some errors in ours that we need to know of.

To access the database just click on the following link: Our Maternal Ancestors: McVicker; Moreland; Pinnell; Scruggs and allied families . You may also access our family tree by going to <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/> . On that page you will see on the left column a box entitled "jump to a specific tree". Type in *jemoreland* and click on "go", or just search for any name in the database and you will be taken to that record.

Please know that we would always welcome any new information that you may have on our common ancestors.

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR WEBSITE??

OUR MATERNAL AND PATERNAL ANCESTORS: 350 YEARS OF HISTORY IN AMERICA

We Are Now At 350 Years Of History In America Surname Locator Page Updated 12 New Surname Pages Completed And Uploaded

If you are looking for any surname that may be in our online databases click on the link from the website's home page to our newly revised Surname Locator web page. Here you can access an index to the surnames of the almost 5,000 individual records we have placed online. In addition this page now contains links to the five major surname research links at RootsWeb.

You are invited to take a look at our new surname page developed for the Kerr family. Our research shows that the Kerrs and the Robertsons were among the first families of Augusta County, Virginia. New information of our Ross family links them to Ross County, Ohio. As such, a new web page about the county has been created and added to the Ancestral Locations. In addition, the discovery that Edward Wade came to America prior to 1640 has necessitated a change the title of the website, as you will note in the next paragraph of this article.

Because we usually update this site several times between the publishing of this Newsletter you are reminded and encouraged to take a look at what is new with regard to the family information and genealogical resources contained at our internet site; Our Maternal & Paternal Ancestors 350 Years of History in America: An Archive of Genealogical Information. It is hoped that you will find new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise us of some new information that we can include at the site. Either way we would appreciate an email from you just to let me know that you've found your way to our online website.

NEW AND REVISED SURNAME PAGES:

[Bonde](#); [Campbell](#); [Childress](#); [Cummings](#); [DeMoss](#); [Dowdle](#); [Hampton](#);
[Kerr](#); [Lineberry](#); [Parker\(1\)](#); [Parker\(2\)](#); [Ross](#); [Wade](#)

NEW SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

[James Robertson property map, Beverly Manor, Augusta Co., VA](#)
[William & Alexander Robertson property map, Beverly Manor, Augusta Co., VA](#)
[1809 Will of William Robertson](#)
[James & John Kerr property map, Beverly Manor, Augusta Co., VA](#)

NEW & REVISED ANCESTRAL LOCATION PAGES:***USA STATES & COUNTIES:***

[Delaware](#); [Campbell Co., VA](#); [Charles Co., MD](#); [Fluvanna Co., VA](#); [Ross Co., OH](#);
[York Co., PA](#)

WORLD STATES & LOCALITIES:

[Angelbachtal, GER](#); [England, UK](#); [Lancashire, UK](#); [Chipping, UK](#);

PHOTO AND IMAGE ARCHIVES for the following localities:

[Augusta Co., VA](#); [Ross Co., OH](#); [Angelbachtal, GER.](#); [Chipping, ENG.](#)

SURNAME SEARCH			
MORELAND			
Featured Databases	Matches	Other Searches	Matches
WorldConnect	28,730	Australia and New Zealand Records	12
Social Security Death Index	5,881	Alumni Lists	8
Rootsweb Surname List	108	Book Indexes	127
Vital Records	Matches	Cemetery Listings	81
California Death Index	608	Census Records	85
Texas Death Index	616	Church Records	1
Kentucky Death Index	399	BLM/GRO Land Records	67
Kentucky Marriage Index	118	Obituaries	21
Husband		POW/MIA Records	5
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	122	British, UK and Ireland Data	6
Maine Death Index	4	Military Records	10
Early Death Records	41	Newspaper Indexes	16
Pre-1920 Marriages	54	Professional, Society, Religious Groups	2
Pre-1920 Births	27	Obituary Daily Times	1,465

“Surname Search” features matches found at RootsWeb.com of a direct line surname in our database. Follow the links to information that may be useful and hopefully rekindle your own research into this family as well as other topics at RootsWeb. To see what information we have uncovered on this family follow the links to our [website](#), and [database](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

“McVicker, Moreland, Pinnell, Scruggs and allied families” is a family-history newsletter published quarterly by Frederick G. Siler, 889 Dante Court, Mantua, New Jersey 08051. It is available both in print and online. Print copies may be obtained through written correspondence that includes a SASE.

The online version is sent as an attachment to an email message. Issues are also posted at: [MMPS Newsletter TOC](#). Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.

Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!