

# OUR FAMILY STORY

## Fall, 2002

Hello Everyone;

This is your cousin or nephew Rick Siler. Welcome to our first family newsletter. I do hope that you will enjoy each periodic installment of this ongoing correspondence. As the descendants of **Jerre' Moreland** and **Pearl Scruggs** we all share a common heritage. It is my aim to pass along to you and your families some of the chronicles that I am collecting on our ancestors. I hope that you will share it with your children so that they can also understand how deep their roots are.

I started my current quest for more information on our family about 3 years ago. Believe me I am not the first in our family to collect and write down information about those who came before us. Much was written about the Scruggs and other related families in California during the early 1900's. My brother Tom Peiffer is also working diligently on the family tree. In fact he has done much research on the Scruggs line during colonial times. My mother Eleanor along with Uncle Floyd carried the banner for many, many years. At many of our family gatherings the stories would be told, the pictures of departed fore bearers would be scrutinized along with the diagrams of our tree and its corresponding notes. I can remember seeing the 1792 birth date of our Great-Grandfather Asa Pinnell on one of those tree diagrams and thinking how tremendously far back we had traced our family. My current research shows that we have many grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, and uncles who lived most of their lives in America during the 1600's and early 1700's!!

I am continually surprised and pleased to see how long our common family has been in America. The descendants of the Mayflower can of course trace their lineage back to the landing of the first Pilgrims in 1620. This is quite rare in any family and does allow one to feel proud to know that they are very firmly rooted in the history of our nation. Yes indeed quite rare. But did you know that we have a great-grandfather who came to the Jamestown Colony aboard the Royal Navy Ship "Starr" in 1610? Now doesn't that fact give our family a ten-year head start on those Descendents of the Mayflower? :>)

I once had someone ask me if I had any famous people in my family tree. My response was that I didn't think so but that I had many who were just common folk who lived and participated in many of the extraordinary events that make up the fabric of our nation and it's history. During the next months I hope to tell you a variety of stories about our shared family line. I'm sure you and your children will enjoy focusing the story of our great-grandfather Samuel Scott Scruggs who spent the winter at Valley Forge with George Washington, or great-grandmother Sarah Rebecca Rhodes who came across the plains by wagon train in the 1850's. If all goes well with my research I may be able to show how the first Lord Baltimore, founder of the Maryland colony, is an Uncle to all of us!!

### **OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**

Start planning your own Family History Month celebration for 2002. If you are interested in some suggestions for celebrating during the month you can go to the following web page:

<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=1644&key=A255206>

These suggestions for involving your family and celebrating Family History Month are as relevant now as they ever were. Family and family values are timeless, as every

genealogist knows. With a little work, like this newsletter, we can start a groundswell, grass-roots effort to celebrate family and all that is right with it. I hope you will join "the family."

Let me know what you think about "Our Family Story".  
Happy Holidays to all!!

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