

OUR FAMILY STORY

Summer 2003

Hello everyone;

Welcome to the **fourth** issue of our family newsletter. To reiterate from my previous 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 firmly rooted we are into the history of our country.

WHAT ABOUT THE MORELAND SIDE OF OUR FAMILY??

After looking over the material in past newsletters I noted that all of the feature articles were about ancestors from the Scruggs side of our family. So in this issue I have chosen to feature someone from our Moreland side.

Whenever he was asked about his family history Jerre' Moreland always said that he knew virtually nothing about his ancestors other than his father Jeremiah Moreland and his mother Mary Etta Pinnell both came from Missouri. This lack of knowledge was probably due mostly to the fact that Jerre' was the last born of his family and never knew his father who died when Jerre' was only two years old. As a result, what we originally knew about the Moreland and Pinnell families came from Jerre's older brother Earl Moreland.

After conducting several years of research I can say that Jerre' Moreland's family is as interesting and diverse as the Scruggs side. For example, our grandfather Isaac Chapline arrived in the Jamestown Colony in 1610, and his wife Mary was the sister of the First Lord Baltimore founder of the Maryland Colony. In fact I've been able to document Jerre's side of the family back to a Leonard Calvert in 1550 England!! But more about them in future issues. This time I'll be introducing you to George Moreland whom I've dubbed "The Wanderer".

After the conclusion of the American Revolution the vast lands west of the Appalachian Mountains were opened for settlement, and in 1803 more land was opened west of the Mississippi River as a result of the Louisiana Purchase. This was the time of our great-grandfather George Moreland. When more land and more opportunity beckoned George was sure to follow, always moving west. It was he who was responsible for many of the Morelands found today living in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. The following quote from King's History of Maries County, Missouri amply defines our George and the impact he made during his lifetime, "George Moreland lived and died so very long ago that he is more legend than a reality to most of his descendants". George fathered at least nine known offspring, and between the years 1795 and 1835 most of them trekked west with him from Maryland to South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, and finally Missouri.

The Story of George "The Wanderer" Moreland

In 1775 on the eve of the American Revolutionary War, George Moreland was born to Jacob and Celia Moreland of Charles County, Maryland. Around 1795 when George was

a young man of 20 years he moved with his parents and family to the York District of South Carolina. It is probable that he married his wife Hannah sometime around 1795-96 either just before or after the family moved south from Maryland.

After reaching the York District he and Hannah advanced on to Wilkes Co., Georgia where he first appears in 1797. George's sister, Sarah (or Sally) also made her home in Wilkes County as well. George's Wilkes County years do not appear to have been particularly prosperous for him. The Wilkes County Tax Digests show that George did not own any land during this time. It is also known that he drew blanks in the Georgia Land Lotteries of 1803 and 1805. George was to remain Wilkes County until around 1809 when he removed back to the York District of South Carolina. He probably moved to his widowed mother's farm as his father, Jacob had died previously in 1808. George was listed as the head of a family on the 1810 Census in York District, South Carolina. The State of South Carolina granted him land on May 4, 1812 in York District. The property was described as 240 acres on waters of Turkey Creek, waters of Broad River. This land was most likely his father Jacob's old farm.

Around 1813 George and his family left the York District and moved on to Jefferson Co., Tennessee. It is speculated that he left South Carolina after the death of his mother, Celia. Records show that in 1815 George Moreland was a buyer at an Estate Sale in Jefferson County. In 1818, as George Moreland of Jefferson County, he bought a 297-acre tract of land located in the district south of the French Broad and Hoston Rivers, on Muddy Creek. He later sold this tract in 1821. In 1825 he bought property from the State of Tennessee in McMinn County. The lands of McMinn County fell to the state as a result of a treaty with the Cherokee Indians. He acquired 160 acres for a down payment of \$160.00 in Tennessee bank notes, and held this tract for eight years. George was listed as the head of a family on the 1830 Census in McMinn Co., Tennessee. It is interesting to note that our Douglass family ancestors from the Scruggs side were also living in McMinn County at this time. It is quite possible that George Moreland knew of our great-grandfather **Robert Douglass** who had moved into the county in 1822. You will remember our great-grandmother Sarah Rebecca Douglass Rhodes, from the Winter issue of the newsletter. All in all we do know that Robert Douglass's great-granddaughter Pearl Scruggs married George Moreland's great grandson Jerre' Moreland in California approximately 100 years later!

In 1833 George moved west and settled briefly in St. Clair Co., Illinois. He and his family then moved across the Mississippi River to Missouri arriving before 1839. He settled in Johnson Township of Crawford County. In 1855, Johnson Township fell into the southeastern most part of the newly created Maries County, where it is situated today. Everett Marshall King, in his book History of Maries County, states that George's "only known home in this county was on the Bourbeuse River. An Indian trail crossed the creek on this land, and later on one of the many forks of the Potosi road also crossed there. Its easy access probably led to its having been settled early." Some of George and Hannah's children also removed to the Moreland Settlement in Missouri. Sons, Elias, Thomas, and William came with their families. Andrew, Anna and Nancy, all still single, also came.

George and Hannah's third son **John Moreland** (the great-grandfather to our Jerre' Moreland) died about 1836 or 1837, soon after coming to Missouri. There is some family tradition that holds that Indians killed John and his father-in-law, Mr. Bennett, in the Cherokee Nation. Our Great Great-Grandfather John Moreland may have preceded his

brothers and sisters in their move to Missouri. John was only 27 years old when he died and fathered only one child, a son also named John, during his shortened life. If he hadn't accomplished that there would not have been a Jerre' Moreland or us, his descendants!!.

Over the next few years many of the Moreland's of McMinn County, Tennessee as well as neighbors and relatives followed George and migrated to Missouri. George was listed as the head of a family on the 1840 Census in Crawford Co., Missouri. George Moreland at age 75 was listed as a member of Andrew Moreland's household in the 1850 Census in Maries Co., Missouri. It is known that in 1853 he sold property in Crawford Co., Missouri, to his son, Andrew, at about age 78. This is the last known record of George's life. It is said that George lived to be 102 years old!!

A QUOTE TO NOTE (*especially as it applies to our George Moreland*)

"Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another."

John Dewey

Always open for suggestions as to what you might want to look for in future issues of "Our Family Story". Best Wishes to all!!

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