

OUR FAMILY STORY

Winter 2004

Hello everyone;

Welcome to the sixth issue of our family newsletter. As the descendants of **Jerre' Moreland** and **Pearl Scruggs** we all share a common heritage. The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along to you and your families some of the chronicles and stories about our ancestors. Please consider sharing them with your children so that they can also understand how firmly rooted we are into the history of our country. In this issue you will be introduced to the genealogical society known as "The Sons of the American Revolution" and our Revolutionary War ancestor, Samuel Scott Scruggs, who spent the winter at Valley Forge with General George Washington.

FAMILY SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Peiffer, he, Floyd Moreland and Rick Siler have been accepted as members in the "National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution" (SAR). This membership may be extended to any male member of our family as we are all descended from our Great Grandfather Samuel Scott Scruggs. As such all female family members are eligible to become members of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" (DAR). Should any of you have an interest in seeking membership in either of these prestigious organizations please contact me.

The SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic non-profit corporation that seeks to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom as well as an appreciation for true patriotism. It does this by perpetuating the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men and women who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, and will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), was organized April 30, 1889 on the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our nation's first President. The SAR was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence. The National Society was chartered by an Act of the United States Congress on June 6, 1906. The charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member of the SAR.

Today the SAR consists of 26,000 members in over 470 chapters in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Almost 150,000 descendants of men and women Patriots have been admitted since its founding. SAR members include fourteen presidents of the United States, presidents of several colleges and universities, ambassadors, and members of the Supreme Court, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. Congress. Members include small businessmen, doctors, lawyers, school

teachers, CPAs, elected local, state, and federal officials, and government employees, all of whom have a deep affection for America its heritage and institutions.

SAMUEL SCOTT SCRUGGS SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Our Great Grandfather Samuel Scott Scruggs. Sr. was born between March 28, 1757 and March 27, 1758 most likely in Albemarle County, Virginia. During this time Albemarle County was also the home of future U.S. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe.

On August 22, 1777 Samuel enlisted in James Franklin's Company of Foot (infantry) under the alias of Scott Martin. He was 19 or 20 years old at the time. Captain Franklin's company was mustered in Amherst County as Company 3 of the 10th Virginia Regiment. Until September 28, 1778 the 10th VA Regiment was part of the 3rd (Weedon's) Brigade of the Continental Army.

Three weeks after he enlisted the Battle of Brandywine was fought just west of Philadelphia on September 11, 1777. Samuel may have arrived from Virginia either just before or after this battle. Around 1,000 Continental troops were either killed, wounded or captured in that battle. Three weeks later, on October 4, 1777, just north of Philadelphia, the 10th VA Regiment fought at the Battle of Germantown as part of Col. Weedon's 3rd Brigade under Nathaniel Greene's division of the Left Wing Continentals. Greene's division fought vigorously at Germantown and over-ran a number of British companies. But in the end they were badly battered. The British captured the entire 9th VA Regiment in that battle. In total the Continental Army losses at Germantown were 152 killed, 521 wounded and 400 missing or captured. Most likely Samuel Scott Scruggs fought with Greene on the awful day, even though the first locales in his service records show Samuel at Valley Forge in March 1778.

There is little doubt that Samuel spent the infamous winter at Valley Forge when General Washington chose to winter the Continental Army not far from Philadelphia. Lack of food, clothing and shoes at Valley Forge caused troops, like Samuel, to suffer and in many cases to die of exposure. John and his son James Scruggs of the Powhatan Company of the 10th VA Regiment, likely relatives of Samuel, died at Valley Forge sometime that winter.

In the summer of 1778 the Continental Army chased British General Clinton across New Jersey as he was evacuating his troops to New York. On June 28, 1778, General Washington attacked the British forces at Monmouth, New Jersey. Weedon's Brigade, to which the 10th VA Regiment was attached, fought as one of the 14 brigades in the Main Army. The Advanced Corps of 6 brigades was commanded by Major Charles Lee. Lee was an independent-minded person who failed to follow orders, allowed his troops to retreat in disarray and lost a golden opportunity for the Continental Army. The Continental Army losses at Monmouth were: 69 killed, 161 wounded and 130 missing or captured (12). Samuel may have been wounded in this battle. His service records show that he was in the North River Hospital on August 3, 1778.

After Monmouth, Gen. Washington took the Continental Army to White Plains, New York. There the badly depleted regiments were reorganized. The 10th VA Regiment became part of the 6th VA Regiment on September 28, 1778. From December 1778 to March 1779 his service record shows that Samuel was at Camp Middle Brook in New

Jersey. He is reported at Camp Haverstraw, NY in November 1779, and present at Morristown Nov-Dec 1779, the 1779-80 winter headquarters for the Continental Army. This winter was as hard or harder on the troops than the winter at Valley Forge.

In his pension application Samuel Scruggs indicated that he had served for two years and was discharged in Pennsylvania. It is likely that he was discharged shortly after the Nov-Dec 1779 service records and that he returned directly to his parent's home in Virginia.

Soon after he returned home Samuel married Miss Jane Childress of Albemarle County. He and Jane settled, on a farm at the juncture of Rockfish Creek and Dutch Creek in Nelson County, Virginia and remained there until he died. Together they had seven children (5 sons and 2 daughters) between ca. 1783 and 1806. One of these sons was our great-grandfather Joseph C. Scruggs born in 1794. Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. died sometime between 1830 and 1831 at the age of 73 years old.

ISAAC CHAPLINE JAMESTOWN SETTLER (Update)

Not more than a week after I wrote the last newsletter I came across information showing that our connection to the Chapline family may not be accurate. The data that I previously relied on was quite specific with regard to our connection, but unfortunately it appears that the person presenting the information had not researched it as well as one would wish. Tom Peiffer and I have looked at both sources of information which contradict each other and as such have decided to delete the Chapline family line from our current database at least until we feel that we have enough primary source documentation to warrant re-inclusion into our Family Tree.

A QUOTE TO NOTE - "Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."
George S. Patton

Always open for suggestions as to what you might want to look for in future issues of "Our Family Story". A happy and successful 2004 to all!!

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