

CITATION: Helgesen, R.G. and D.M. 1996. A Family History of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. of Nelson County, Virginia A Revolutionary War Soldier, *Searching For Scruggs*. Vol. XV, pp. 29-38.

A Family History of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. of Nelson County, Virginia A Revolutionary War Soldier

by
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Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. was born sometime between March 28, 1757 and March 27, 1758 most likely in that part of Albemarle County, Virginia that later became Amherst County (1). At that time Albemarle County included the present day counties of Amherst, Nelson, and Albemarle. A John Scruggs was recorded in the 1755 Albemarle County Court Papers as responsible for a debt of 43 shillings (2). There is a possibility that this John Scruggs may have been Samuel's father, or grandfather. Samuel enlisted in an infantry company in Amherst County in 1777(3). He was reported in Amherst County in 1783(4). His grandmother, Susanna Carter Scruggs, died in Amherst County in 1798, naming her grandson, Samuel Scott Scruggs as her heir (5). In fact, his grandparents may have been the ancestors for many of the Scruggs in that part of Amherst County that later became Nelson County. Susanna Carter Scruggs was the sister of Mary Carter who married Drury Scruggs (6). On August 22, 1777 Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. enlisted in James Franklin's Company of Foot (infantry) under the alias of Scott Martin (3). He was 19-20 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 (7). Table one shows his service records (8):

Table 1. Compiled Service Records for Samuel Scott Scruggs (alias Scott Martin).			
Card	Activity	Location	Date
1	Enlistment	Amherst Co., VA	August 22, 1777
2	Payroll	Valley Forge, PA	November 1777
3	Co Muster	Valley Forge, PA	March 1778
4	Co Muster	Brunswick, NJ	May 1778
5	Co Muster	North River Hospital	June 1778
6	Co Muster	White Plains, NY	July 1778
7	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook, NJ	August 1778
8	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	October 1778
9	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	November 1778
10	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	December 1778
11	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	January 1779
12	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	February 1779
13	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	March 1779
14	Co Muster	Camp Middlebrook	April 1779
15	Co Muster	Smith's Clove, NY	May 1779
16	Co Muster	Smith's Clove, NY	June 1779
17	Co Muster	Ramapough, NJ	July 1779
18	Co Muster	Smith's Clove, NY	August 1779
19	Co Muster	Ramapough, NJ	September 1779
20	Co Muster	Camp Haverstraw, NY	October 1779

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21	Co Muster	Morristown, NJ	November 1779
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Three weeks after he enlisted the Battle of Brandywine was fought just west of Philadelphia on September 11, 1777. Around 1000 Continental troops were either killed, wounded or captured in that battle (9). Three weeks later, on October 4, 1777, just north of Philadelphia, the 10th VA Regiment fought at the Battle of Germantown as part of Cot. 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 (10). Most likely Samuel Scott Scruggs fought with Greene on that awful day, even though the first locale in his service records show Samuel at Valley Forge in March 1778.

There is also 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 from 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 in that winter (11).

In the summer of 1778 the Continental Army chased British Gen. Clinton across New Jersey as he was evacuating his troops to New York. On June 28, 1778, Gen. Washington attacked the British forces at Monmouth, New Jersey. Weedon's Brigade, to which the 10th VA Regiment was attached, fought as one of 14 brigades in the Main Army. The Advanced Corps of 6 brigades was commanded by Maj. 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 was reported at Camp Haverstraw (NY) in November 1779 and present at Morristown Nov-Dec 1779, the 1779-80 winter headquarters for the Continental Army (7, 13). 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 (1). It is likely that he was discharged shortly after the Nov-Dec 1779 service records and that he returned directly to his parents home.

D.A.R. records indicate that Samuel Scott Scruggs married Jane Childress (14). There were several Childress families in Albemarle County at the time. However, there is no direct record of the marriage. It is more likely that he was married a few years after his discharge than before he entered the army. Since Samuel's son John was married in 1806 (15), Samuel and Jane probably were married sometime between 1781 and 1783. The 1783 Virginia Heads of Household and the 1787 Virginia Heads of Household list three white souls in the household of Samuel Scruggs (4). That census recorded only males over the age of 16.

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Samuel Scott Scruggs and his wife Jane settled on a farm at the juncture of Rockfish Creek and Dutch Creek in Nelson County, VA and remained there until Samuel died (16). They had the following known children between ca 1783 and 1806:

1. John Scruggs b. Ca. 1783
2. Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. b. Ca. 1788
3. William Scruggs
4. Joseph C. Scruggs b. 1794
5. Nancy C. Scruggs b. ca. 1795
6. Theophilus C Scruggs b. 1798
7. Mary Scruggs b. ca. 1808

Five of these children, William, Theophilus, Joseph C., Nancy, and Mary were named as children of Samuel Scott Scruggs in a Nelson County, Virginia Chancery Court Order in 1837 (17). John and Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. were not named directly as children of Samuel in this court order because they had died prior to 1837; however they are referred to as the parents of some of the living heirs of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. in that same document. John is listed as the son of Samuel Scruggs in the 1811, 1812, and 1815 Nelson County Virginia Personal Property Tax Lists (18). William, Theophilus, Joseph C., and Samuel Scott, Jr. also were identified as sons of Samuel Scott Scruggs in an affidavit by J. Pendleton Scruggs (19).

Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. died sometime between 1830 when he was listed in the Nelson County Personal Property Tax List and 1831 when he no longer appears. He was 73 years old. The Nelson County, Virginia Minute Book, 1841-1846, pg. 186, shows that Joseph C. Scruggs became the administrator for the estate of Jane Scruggs, his mother, in 1842. The following is an account of the children of Samuel Scott Scruggs and his wife Jane:

1. John Scruggs.

John Scruggs was born around 1783. As early as 1811 there is a John Scruggs, listed as the son of Samuel, in the Personal Property Tax Lists for Nelson County, Virginia. There is a John P. Scruggs, listed as the son of Timothy, in these same tax lists (18). John Scruggs married Sally (Sarah) Jopling in 1806, with Samuel Scruggs, his father, serving as security (15).

The Nelson County, Virginia Chancery Court Order of October 6, 1837 (17) directly identifies four children of John Scruggs: Jane C. Scruggs who married her cousin Andrew Scruggs, Benjamin Scruggs, Almira (Scruggs) Phillips, and Francis Scruggs, with Francis Scruggs being an infant (under 21) at the time. There appear to be two more of John's children in this court order; William and Betsy Ann. There are four William Scruggs mentioned in the other. One of these is the son of Samuel, Sr. One is the son of Samuel, Jr. (see section of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr.). Another is the son of Benjamin. The fourth William is an adult. Adult heirs would be living children of Samuel, Sr. or living offspring of deceased children of Samuel. Samuel's son William is accounted for and since the children of Samuel, Jr. are known, it appears that the fourth William Scruggs is a son of John.

Also, a Betsy Ann Scruggs is listed as an adult heir in that same order. As an adult heir she could only be the child of Samuel, Sr., or the offspring of a deceased child of Samuel, Sr. The court order shows that she was not a child of Samuel, Sr.. Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. and John Scruggs were the only two children of Samuel, Sr. to have died by the time of the court order. Since the children of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. are known, it is most likely that Betsy

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Ann Scruggs was a child of John Scruggs.

The 1820 census for Nelson County, Virginia shows an entry for John P. Scruggs and another entry for John Scruggs. The household for John Scruggs shows two boys under ten, one male between 18 and 26, two males over 45 and one female between 16 and 26. With only two children in the household in 1820, this hardly could be the same John Scruggs. The Nelson County, Virginia Tax Lists for 1816-21 shows as many as four different John Scruggs in Nelson County in some of these years, including John P. and John R. The 1820 census record is most likely for one of these other John Scruggs.

In the Nelson County, Virginia Circuit Court Orders for the October term of 1818 there is a John Scruggs (laborer) indicted and later acquitted for malicious shooting. The parents of this John Scruggs are not identified. The Nelson County Personal Property Tax List suggests that John Scruggs died around 1823. Tax lists for the years 1824-1829 list the estate of John Scruggs (18). Apparently the estate had not been probated until 1829. The 1825-6 Nelson County, Virginia Minute Book lists a suit by Samuel S. Scruggs vs. Sarah Scruggs, widow relict of John Scruggs, deceased, which appears to be the start of the probate of the John Scruggs estate (20). Sarah Scruggs continued to be listed in the 1830 and 1833 tax lists. The following are believed to be children of John and Sally Scruggs:

1. Benjamin b. before 1810
 1. William
 2. Carey Ann
2. Almira b. ca. 1810 m. James W. Phillips (deceased by 1838) Nov 27, 1828
 1. Robert Phillips
3. Betsy Ann b. before 1816
4. William b. before 1816
5. Jane C. b. ca. 1816 m. Andrew J. Scruggs ca. 1836 m. Moore 2nd.
6. Francis b. ca. 1823

2. Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr.

A history of the Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. family was published in an earlier *Searching For Scruggs* (21). Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. was born about 1788. He married Ann L. Bailey on June 6, 1812 in Nelson County, Virginia. Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. died ca. 1831. He had the following children:

1. Jane C. Scruggs b. ca. 1813 m. James Brooks April 6, 1835, Powhatan Co., VA. The 1850 Powhatan Co, VA census, pg. 312, shows Jane at 37 years old with one eleven year old child:
 1. Ann Brooks b. 1839
2. Andrew Jackson Scruggs b. ca 1815 d. ca. 1840 m. Jane C Scruggs (dau of John Scruggs) November7, 1836 (listed as Sarah J. Scruggs in marriage register). No issue.
3. William Landrum Scruggs b. April 17, 1817 d. ca. 1890 m. Sarah A. Wilkinson ca.1842. William L. Scruggs' family is described in *Searching For Scruggs* (22). There were two William Scruggs in the 1850 census in Nelson Co. William S. and William L. According to the 1860 census William S. was born at Albemarle Co. and could not have been Samuel S. Scruggs son (23). This and other evidence (21,22) present a strong argument that William Landrum Scruggs was indeed the

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son of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. The following are the children of William Landrum Scruggs:

1. Caroline M. Scruggs b. 1843 m. Walter T. Spencer Sep 16,1860
2. Sarah Jane Scruggs b. 1844 d. Apr 26,1860
3. Mary Alice Scruggs b. Jun 6, 1845 m. John Lewis Matthews Nov 20,1873
4. James A. Scruggs b. Oct 23, 1849 d. Jun 30. 1887. Never married.
5. Ann Maria Scruggs b. Aug 1850 d. Sep 8, 1937. Never married.
6. Signora L. Scruggs b. 1852 d. Feb 1865
7. William Landrum Scruggs, Jr. b. May 1853 m. Josephine Thacker Jun 20, 1894
8. Joseph Walter Scruggs b. Oct 4, 1855 m. Mary Sheila Matthews Jun 13, 1880
9. Addice Scruggs b. 1859
10. Robert Franklin Scruggs b. Aug 16, 1860 m. Lula Poindexter
11. Elizabeth M. Scruggs b. 1863
12. Samuel Scott Scruggs b. Apr 10, 1865 m. Cora Carter. No issue.
4. Samuel Scruggs b. ca. 1820.

3. William Scruggs.

The deposition of J. Pendleton Scruggs identifies a William Scruggs as a son of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. (19). The 1837 Nelson County law suit identifies a William Scruggs, living at the time, as a child of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr.(17). Since he was alive in 1837, and assuming that he lived in Nelson County, Virginia, or the counties nearby, all of the William Scruggs living in Virginia in the 1810-1870 censuses were analyzed to determine which, if any, might be the son of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. (23,24,25,26,27,28,29).

Table 2. Occurrences of the name William Scruggs in Virginia censuses from 1810 to 1870.					
Year	Age				
	William #1 Buckingham Co.	William #2 Buckingham Co.	William #3 Buckingham Co.	Wm S. Nelson Co.	Wm. L. Nelson Co.
1810	26<45				
1820	26<45	16<26			
1830	50<60	30<40			
1840	50<60	40<50	20<30	20<30	
1850	69	58		30	33
1860				42	43
1870		78		53	53

Until the 1840 census there were only two William Scruggs reported as heads of households in Virginia. Both of them resided in Buckingham County. In 1840 two more William Scruggs were reported in Virginia, one of them in Nelson County and one in Buckingham County. And by 1850 another, William L., was reported in Nelson County. These latter three were in the 20<30 year old category in 1840 and were too young to be the sons of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr.

The origins of the other two Williams can be traced back to 1810 and 1820 respectively in Buckingham County. The 1850 census indicates that the older of these two was born in Cumberland County, Virginia around 1780. Since S.S. Scruggs. Sr. spent his entire life in

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Nelson County, Virginia (formerly Amherst County) it is not likely that his son would have been born in Cumberland County.

The younger of these two Williams died at age 85 in 1877. The Buckingham County, Virginia Register of Deaths for 1877 reported that the parents of this William Scruggs were Drury and Francis Scruggs and that his wife was Elizabeth A. (30). Census records show that their children were: Mary Elizabeth Scruggs b. 1826; William Henry Scruggs b. 1827; Benjamin Harrison Scruggs b. 1828; Judith Frances Scruggs b. 1832; Anne Rebecca Scruggs b. 1834; John Edward Scruggs b. 1836. It appears that none of the William Scruggs listed in the Virginia censuses from 1810-1870 was the son of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr..

There is another William Scruggs in Nelson County who did not show in the censuses. His name is William P. Scruggs. William P. Scruggs served as bond (or the marriage of Andrew J. Scruggs and Sarah (Jane) C. Scruggs in 1836, and was the appraiser for Andrew's estate in 1840 (Nelson County, Virginia Minute Book, 1835-1840, pg. 413). A William Scruggs (probably William P.) appears in the Nelson County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Lists as early as 1834, and William P. Scruggs appears in 1836, 1838, 1840, and 1841 in that same tax list (18). Since Andrew's father had died in 1831, and his Uncle John had died in 1823, and since his Uncle Theophilus and Uncle Joseph had moved to other counties, it is possible that William P. Scruggs, as an uncle to Andrew, would have served in these two legal capacities. Unfortunately no other records of William P. Scruggs have been found.

4. Joseph C. Scruggs.

Joseph C. Scruggs and his family were described by Carole Ruff in *Searching For Scruggs* (31). Joseph C. Scruggs was born on August 14, 1794 in Nelson County, Virginia and died on January 29, 1879, at his farm at Fluvanna County, Virginia. He was married December 16, 1824 to Francis Parks Shepard. She was born on May 31, 1809 at Albemarle County, Virginia and died on November 12, 1872 at the family farm at Fluvanna County, Virginia. She was the daughter of Anthony Shepard and Mary Eades. The following is an account of their 14 children who were all born at Fluvanna County, Virginia:

1. Mary Jane Scruggs b. June 4, 1826
2. Joseph Anthony Scruggs b. September 21, 1828
3. Calvin Scott Scruggs b. December 8, 1830 d. Dec 1862
4. James Egington Scruggs b. January 28, 1833
5. Samuel Monroe Scruggs b. October 25, 1835 d. May 1913
6. William Perkins Scruggs b. September 10, 1837
7. George H. Scruggs b. January 4, 1839 d. in early childhood
8. Nelson Eldridge Scruggs b. July 1, 1840 died early
9. Abram Eades Scruggs b. January 1, 1842 d. September 24, 1916
10. Frances Mildred Scruggs b. March 19, 1844
11. Albia Edgar Scruggs b. February 4, 1845 d. December 23, 1906
12. Martha Judson Scruggs b. February 24, 1847
13. Elvia E. Scruggs b. December 1849 d. in infancy
14. Emma E. Scruggs b. September 21, 1850
15. Stevannah K Scruggs b. May 10, 1852

Joseph C. Scruggs lived his entire adult life at his farm at Fluvanna County. He lived to the

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ripe old age of 86 years, a good age even by today's standards.

5. Nancy C. Scruggs.

Nancy C. Scruggs was born about 1795 in that part of Amherst County, Virginia that is now Nelson County. The 1810 census for Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. lists one female younger than ten years old which was probably Mary, and one female between 10 and 16 years old which was probably Nancy (24).

She was married first to M.D. Bailey 25 January 1813 at Nelson County, Virginia, with her father as bond (32). It is interesting to note that two of her brothers married Baileys: Samuel Scott Scruggs, Jr. to Ann Bailey, and Theophilus Scruggs to Sarah T. Bailey. Samuel Scott Scruggs' farm was near the confluence of the Dutch Creek and the Rockfish Creek in Nelson County. The Bailey farm was very near this, if not adjacent. Today there remains an area called Bailey Mountain which was the site of the Bailey farm. There is no record of M.D. Bailey in the 1820 Virginia census, seven years after they were married.

On March 5, 1833 Nancy C. Scruggs married a second time to William T. Suddarth at Albemarle County, Virginia (33). This was a second marriage for William T. Suddarth as well. The 1830 Albemarle County, Virginia census shows William with the following family: one male under 5, 2 females under 5, and one female between 30 and 40, probably his wife.

In addition to the Albemarle County Marriage Register, William Suddarth is recorded as the husband of Nancy C. Scruggs, daughter of Samuel S. Scruggs, in the 1837 Nelson County chancery order. Also, on March 5, 1833, William Suddarth became the legal guardian of another Nancy C. Scruggs who was the orphaned daughter of Benjamin Scruggs (34). Although the two names of Nancy C. Scruggs associated with William T. Suddarth seem confusing, it is very clear from the 1837 chancery order that his wife, Nancy C. Scruggs Suddarth, was the daughter of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. The Nancy C. Scruggs for whom William Suddarth assumed guardianship was the orphaned daughter of Benjamin Scruggs. This Benjamin Scruggs is not the same Benjamin who was the son of John Scruggs. Apparently Nancy C. Scruggs, the daughter of Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr., was an informal guardian, God-parent, or was caring in some way for the younger Nancy C. Scruggs, daughter of Benjamin Scruggs at the time of her marriage to William Suddarth. The Suddarth family is not listed in the 1840 Virginia census. The 1850 Albemarle County, Virginia census shows the following information for William Suddarth (35):

Suddarth, William	50	carpenter
Nancy	30	
Virginia	15	
Sarah	13	
William	11	
Sandy	09	
Lucy	08	
Cornelia	03	

Nancy, 30, is Nancy C. Scruggs, the daughter of Benjamin Scruggs, who was 13 years old at the time William Suddarth and Nancy Scruggs, the elder, were married. The oldest child listed in this census is daughter Virginia, who was born in 1835. Since William and Nancy were married in 1833, Virginia and the rest of the children listed were children of Nancy Scruggs and her husband William. It is presumed that the children from his first marriage had

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already left the household. The first 5 of Nancy and William's children were born at rather regular two year intervals. Cornelia, the last child, was born 5 years after the previous child. Nancy died around 1847-8 and it is tempting to speculate that she may have died as a result of the birth of Cornelia, especially since she was around 50 years old at the time. William was still alive, at 69 years old, when the 1870 Albemarle County, Virginia census was taken.

The following are the children of Nancy C. Scruggs and William Suddarth:

1. Virginia Suddarth b. 1835
2. Sarah Suddarth b. 1837
3. William B. Suddarth b. 1839
4. Sandy Suddarth b. 1841
5. Lucy Suddarth b. 1842
6. Cornelia Suddarth b. 1847

6. Theophilus C. Scruggs.

Theophilus Scruggs was born August 14, 1798 at Nelson County, Virginia (36). He married Sarah T. Bailey on February 15, 1821 in Nelson County (37). He moved to Buckingham County, Virginia sometime after his marriage and was listed in the 1830 census for that county (38). Theophilus and Sarah had the following children who were all enumerated, but not named, in that census:

1. Samuel S. Scruggs b. 1822. reported as a 48 year old unmarried farmer residing at Otter Twp. in the 1870 Bedford County, Virginia census.
2. William B. Scruggs b.. 1824 in. Nannie M, ca. 1854, residing in Lisbon Twp., Bedford Co., Va in the 1880 census:
 1. Theophilus M. Scruggs b. 1855
 2. Sallie L. Scruggs b. 1857
 3. William Letcher Scruggs b. 1859
 4. May Scruggs b. 1861
 5. Annie Scruggs b. 1864
 6. Maria Scruggs b. 1867
 7. Coly Scruggsb.1868
 8. Witt Scruggs b. 1872
 9. Richard Scruggs b. 1875
3. Sarah Ann Carter Scruggs b. 1826 m. Samuel W. Williams ca. 1848 at Bedford Co., VA. Lineage identified in J. Pendleton Scruggs deposition (19). Residing at Bedford Co. in the 1860 Bedford Co., VA census (pg. 530):
 1. Samuel Richard Williams b. Feb 22, 1849 d. 1913 at Roanoke, VA
 2. William W. Williams b. 1851
 3. S.I.E. Williams b. 1860
 4. O.A. Williams b. 1860
4. John C. Scruggs b. 1828 m. Caroline F. ca. 1856, residing in Lisbon Twp., Bedford Co., VA in the 1880 census:
 1. William Scruggs b. 1857
 2. John Scruggs b. 1859
 3. Julia Scruggs 5. 1862
 4. Robert Scruggs b. 1866

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5. Hannah Scruggs b. 1870
6. Fannie Scruggs 5. 1871
7. Albert Scruggs b. 1874
8. Annie Scruggs 5. 1877

It is interesting to note that Theophilus named his sons after his brothers John, Samuel and William.

On April 4, 1836, fifteen years after his first marriage, Theophilus married Elvira J. Hamilton at Powhatan County, Virginia (39). By 1845 Theophilus had moved to Campbell County, Virginia where he owned land. By 1848 he owned land and resided in nearby Bedford County (40). Theophilus died at his residence in Bedford County on November 20, 1867 at age 69 years old (36).

7. Mary Scruggs.

Mary Scruggs was recognized in the 1837 Nelson County Chancery Order as one of Samuel Scott Scruggs' children. In his 1828 pension application Samuel Scott Scruggs, Sr. reported that he had a twenty year old daughter living at home who could not contribute to his support because of her bad health. Therefore Mary Scruggs was born Ca. 1808. Aside from the pension application and the chancery order, no further record of a Mary Scruggs could be found.

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