

# **NEWS LETTER**

## **McVicker; Moreland; Pinnell; Scruggs**

### **and allied families**

#### *Summer 2006*

*Hello everyone;*

Welcome to this is the **fifteenth** issue of this family newsletter. As mentioned in our previous edition we've included you on our mailing list because most of you are close family, gen-cousins or genealogists who share a common interest of searching for information on the family surnames associated with our common maternal family line.

If you were wonder why you did not receive the Spring issue it is because it was not written. This omission was mainly due to our recent genealogy journey as we were both on the road continuously between March 25<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Prior to that time our efforts were primarily focused on preparations for the month long coast-to-coast voyage, therefore neither of us had the time to accomplish anything of real substance with regard to researching our maternal family tree. Of course that has all changed as a result of our efforts during the trip.

Within this issue is an article written by Tom with the latest information regarding our Scruggs DNA mystery. Also we've presented an update on our maternal family databases online at Rootsweb's [WorldConnect Project](#), and recent happenings with regard to the website at [Websites on RootsWeb's Freepages](#). Albea E. Scruggs is the ancestor selected for the "Ancestor Profile" article. He was chosen because we were fortunate to find an excellent biography written about him, during our trip. This information proved to be a great supplement to what we already had on Albea, and his family.

As always we will attempt to keep the newsletter brief but informative and hope you will enjoy reading it. You will find articles from back issues on our website. If you do not want to remain on my mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending to you.

## **ANCESTOR PROFILE**

### **Albea E. Scruggs**

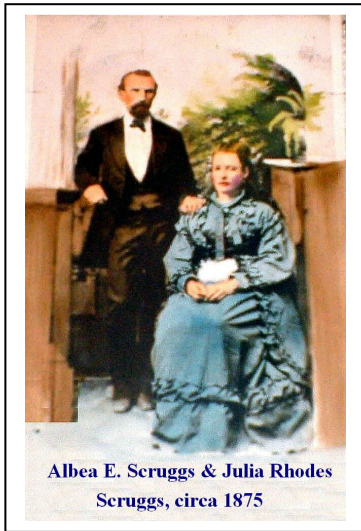
Albea E. Scruggs was the 11th of the 15 children born to Joseph and Frances Scruggs. He was born in 1846 on the family farm located near Palmyra in Fluvanna County, Virginia. His early education was received in the public school near his home.

Although Albea was only 15 or 16 when the War Between the States commenced in 1861 he eventually followed his older brothers into the Army of the Confederacy most likely sometime after his eighteenth birthday, probably in the spring of 1864. It is known that Albea was a Private in Company B of the 5th Virginia Cavalry. Company B was commanded by Captain Frederick Windsor, and thus was usually referred to as "Windsor's Company". The 5th Virginia Cavalry was definitely involved in the fighting that occurred around Farmville, Virginia on April 6, 1865. It was in this battle that Albea's older brother James, a trooper of the 2nd Virginia Cavalry, captured the sword of the mortally wounded Union General Theodore Read. It is most probable that Albea participated in that and many other Cavalry battles and skirmishes that occurred during the final weeks of the war

during Grant's pursuit of Lee's army that ended at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Records show that Albea signed parole papers at Charlottesville, Virginia on May 17, 1865.

After the war the economic prospects in his native state of Virginia were not very good as such Albea decided to seek his fortune in the more remote west because he believed that opportunities were more abundant in the newer states. In 1867 he migrated to California, first locating at Crow's Landing in Stanislaus County. Subsequently he made several trips back east but his interests remained in California.

One must wonder what circumstances encountered by Albea that led him to move clear across the United States? When Albea traveled to the west coast did he journey by land or sea? If by land did he go by train, horseback, stagecoach? If he made the transition by sea a landing at San Francisco may partially explain the reason why he initially settled in Stanislaus County.



Albea E. Scruggs & Julia Rhodes  
Scruggs, circa 1875

In 1875 Albea relocated to Tulare County and began to raise livestock. In that same year he married Julia Rhodes Turner a widow residing in that county. It is interesting to note here that at this time Julia's father, William Rhodes, was well established as a stock-raiser in Tulare County. Could Albea have met his future wife as a result of business transactions with her father? Did Albea make the decision to move from Stanislaus to Tulare County because of his attraction to Julia? The next year, 1876, he purchased his ranch from a railroad company and began to make improvements; while at the same time followed grain farming as well as the raising of stock.

Albea fathered a total of nine children (7 boys and 2 girls). The family lived at a homestead located about 9 miles west of Porterville, California, near the town of Poplar. He and his family are listed in the 1880 Census as living in Tule River Township. In the 1900 census Albea is listed as living in Tipton Township. Both he and his brother Samuel Monroe Scruggs are listed in 1890 and 1898 Great Register as living in the Woodville Precinct.

In 1892 he began setting out an orchard of prunes, pears, and peaches being one of the first in the area to devote land to this purpose. By 1905 Albea owned 400 acres of land on section 28 and 33, township 21, range 26. Of this land 150 acres was devoted to the cultivation of alfalfa, and 25 acres in an orchard. He also maintained a dairy that was noted locally for the excellence of its products. The entire property was under irrigation by the Woods Central Irrigation Company of which he was a director. At another location, on the plains, he farmed 480 acres in grain.



Albea passed away in 1906 at the age of 60. (4) He was buried on 27 December 1906 in the Old Porterville Cemetery, (Plot D-199-6). He was a member of the Methodist Church in Poplar. Fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows. His political inclinations were conservative as he usually voted for the Democratic party in national elections.

## UPDATE ON THE SCRUGGS DNA PROJECT

And the DNA Project marches on! Recently, a 3rd cousin performed a 12 marker Y-DNA test in conjunction with the ongoing DNA testing with the Scruggs Family Association. The results of this recent test are back and they match with the first two tests performed with one variation. Since this 3rd Y-DNA sample was taken from a *descendent of Samuel Scott Scruggs Jr.* brother to our Joseph C. Scruggs and sons of Samuel Scott Scruggs Sr. who is more closely related to our Samuel Scott Scruggs Sr. this supports the theory that this *Non-paternity event* took place prior to our Samuel Scott Scruggs Sr. Since the 12 marker test is considered an entry level test and provides only limited information, we are currently upgrading this sample to a 37 marker test. This will give a greater amount of data to compare with our first two samples. Again we would like to point out that with all of the research attempted on not only the Scruggs surname as a whole but within this family specifically, there has been absolutely no gain made to who the parents were of Samuel Scott Scruggs Sr. Neither do we know who his paternal grandfather was. We do believe that his paternal grandmother was a Susannah Carter b. abt. 1720 in Henrico County, Virginia. She named Samuel Scott Scruggs Sr. as her executor and sole heir in her will. It is in this "black hole" that we believe lies the non paternity event. Also, we still match a John PARKER, b Abt. 1525 Essex England, d Abt. 1581 Essex England and a Samuel Parker, b. Feb, 8, 1817, Lubec, ME, d. Feb. 2, 1899, Oak Hill, St. Stephen, NB, Canada.

## GENEALOGY USA TOUR

In our previous newsletter we (Fred and Tom) spoke of taking a genealogy themed coast-to-coast tour of the USA. After much planning and with the moons and the planets properly aligned we began our journey on April 1, 2006 (no foolin'). We returned to New Jersey on April 30<sup>th</sup> after having traveled over 8,200 miles through 27 of the lower 48 states. Along the way we visited with many cousins and gen-cousins most whom we had only known via the internet.

In an effort to share our adventures with our family, and friends we kept a day-to-day log of the journey. The text of the journal along with accompanying photographs has been uploaded to our website. We believe you will enjoy reading our chronicle or at least some portion that may have particular interest to you. You may directly access it via this link:

[Journal of Our Genealogy Trip](#)

## NEWS ON OUR FAMILY TREE AT ROOTSWEB



An updated version of our database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at Rootsweb.com. We now have information on **1,939** persons, which include, 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. Of course we would always welcome any new information that you may have on our common ancestors.

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.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEBSITE??

### Our Maternal and Paternal Ancestors: 300 Years of History in America

Because we usually update this site several times between the publishing of this Newsletter our readers are reminded and encouraged to take a look at what is new with regard to the family information and genealogical resources contained at this internet site. As with the database you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise of some new information that we can include at the site. Either way we both would appreciate an email from you just to let us know that you've found your way to our online website.

NEW SURNAME PAGES = [Bishop Surname](#); [Bracken Surname](#); [Brown Surname](#); [Carter Surname](#)

NEW ANCESTRAL LOCATION PAGES = [Delaware](#); [Kansas](#); [Maryland](#); [Ohio](#); [New Castle County, DE](#); [Muskingum Co., Ohio](#); [Tulare Co., CA](#)

REVISED PAGES = [Website Homepage](#); [Ancestral Locations](#)

FAMILY PHOTO ARCHIVES = see new links in left column at: [Website Homepage](#)

You are encouraged to take advantage of this family resource. We will be updating the site on a regular basis. Therefore you should attempt to visit it frequently.

#### Directions for Accessing the Website:

SIMPLY use the following link:

[Our Maternal and Paternal Ancestors: 300 Years of History in America](#) ; OR you can go to Rootsweb.com at <http://www.rootsweb.com/> . In the center column you will see "WEBSITES" click on [Websites on RootsWeb's Freepages](#). Select the letter "O" click on it and scroll down the page to the website entitled, Our Maternal and Paternal Ancestors: 300 Years of History in America.

We are always open for suggestions as to what you might want to look for in future issues of "Our Family Story".

Best Wishes for a pleasant summer to you all!!

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