

Spring 2007

Issue: 18



McVicker, Moreland, Pinnell; Scruggs; and allied families



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary

**FEATURE ARTICLE GENERAL GENEALOGY NEWS
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SURNAME SEARCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

WELCOME

Hello everyone;

Welcome to the SPRING 2007 issue of this family newsletter. We've included you on our mailing list because you are close family, a gen-cousin or genealogist who shares a common interest of searching for information on the family surnames associated with our maternal family line.

The subject of our feature article is John Robert McVicker, our great-great grandfather. This story focuses upon his 50 year migration from Ohio to California.

We are also pleased to announce the addition of a new column entitled "Surname Search." Surname Search features matches of a surname in our database to the huge resources found at RootsWeb.com.

In addition to some general topics of interest to the family historian we have also included an update on our maternal family database online at Rootsweb's WorldConnect Project, and recent happenings with regard to the website at RootsWeb's Freepages.

As always we will attempt to keep the newsletter brief but informative and hope you will enjoy reading it. If you do not want to remain on my mailing list please let me know and I will stop sending to you. To read our previous newsletters, visit this link [Newsletter Archives](#).

A QUOTE TO NOTE

"To love what you do and feel that it matters--how could anything be more fun?"

Katharine Graham

FEATURE ARTICLE

John Robert McVicker: A Master of Migration

The life of our great-great grandfather John Robert McVicker typifies the restless nature exhibited by the Scotch-Irish people during the 18th and 19th centuries. It seems that they were perpetually on the move in an effort to find "greener pastures" and a better way of life. During his lifetime it seemed that he was continuously moving west as our nation grew to encompass all that lay between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. His journey lasted over a half century during which time he traveled over 2,000 miles while residing in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and finally California.

John, born 1844 in Hocking County, Ohio, was the eldest child of James and Elizabeth McVicker. Sometime between 1854-56 he and the McVicker family removed some 275 miles to the west from Ohio to Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The McVickers' are listed in the 1860 census as residing in the Stockwell section of Lauramie Township. There, John worked with his father raising and harvesting tobacco.

At the time of the American Civil War John was still living in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. During this time his father James died in July 1864 while serving with the 11th Indiana Cavalry Regiment. Subsequently John enlisted as a Private on February 3, 1865 and by March 1865 he was assigned to Company A of the newly formed 150th Indiana Infantry Regiment. On March 13th Private McVicker and the other 987 men of the 150th left Indiana for Harper's Ferry, Virginia, marching there from Charlestown thence to Winchester, and from there to Stephenson's depot, where it remained until June 27. The regiment then moved to Jordan's Springs, Virginia and was on duty there until its muster-out on August 1865.

After the war John returned home to his family in Indiana. By 1870 the McVickers' had moved another 275 miles west to Mercer County, Illinois where they resided in the community of Keithsburg located on the Mississippi River. During the time they lived at this location John worked as a teamster to support his widowed mother and younger siblings.

Sometime prior to 1875 the family picked up and moved across the Mississippi river to the Union Township area of Sedgwick County, Kansas, a distance of about 550 miles, again to the west. The first family to settle here arrived in 1869 and by 1872 Union had become well populated when a branch of the Santa Fe Railroad arrived at Wichita, and the town "busted-wide-open." Although the McVicker family is not listed among the first to settle in Union Township their arrival in this locality was certainly during the very early stages of the town's development.

While living in Kansas John met and married Ms. Mary Ella Johnson. This event occurred at Wichita, Kansas on April 1, 1877. It is interesting to note that at this time John was 31 years old and Mary Ella 20, a difference of eleven years. Their first child, our great-grandmother, Minnie was born a year later in April 1878. John and his wife produced a total of eight children of which there were four sons and four daughters. Records show that at least five of these children were born in Kansas between 1878 and 1889.

John McVicker made the final and longest move of his "great western migration" when in 1890-91 he relocated to California, and settled in Tulare County. It is most likely that John and his family made this journey, of about 1,560 miles, by railroad. Soon after arriving in the "Golden State" their seventh child, Bessie P. was born in 1891. For the next decade John made his living as a dairy farmer. Some time between 1910 and 1920 he, along with Mary and daughter Neva moved to the Pomona section of San Jose Township in Los Angeles County. John died in February 1929 at the ripe old age of 86 years. The final resting place of this "well traveled ancestor" is located at the Vandalia Cemetery, in Porterville, Tulare County, California.



The John R. McVicker Family, Tulare Co., CA, c. 1915
John Robert McVicker believed to be older man at right.



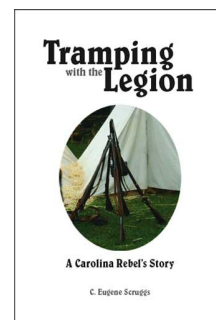
Headstone of John and Mary Ella McVicker at Vandalia Cemetery

GENERAL GENEALOGY NEWS

Tramping with the Legion

One of our subscribers, Dr. C. Eugene Scruggs has just published a new book about Judson Puryear Scruggs and his brothers and cousins who lived in the Spartanburg District of South Carolina. Some two-dozen were in Co. K of Holcombe Legion, South Carolina Volunteers during the US. Civil War. This historical/biographical work is entitled Tramping with the Legion: A Carolina Rebel's Story. More information can be seen on the publishers web site at

www.trafford.com/06-1990 or by doing a search by title (or by author--C. Eugene Scruggs) on Amazon.com or on Google.



Family Roots Radio Airing

ProGenealogists, Inc. and Genealogy Today announced the launch of "Family Roots Radio," a weekly Internet radio show devoted to genealogy and family history. This hour-long radio show will begin airing each Thursday at 1 p.m. Pacific time (4 p.m. Eastern), beginning February 8, 2007 on Modavox's VoiceAmerica Channel, the nation's leading Internet radio provider.

Hosted by well-known genealogical author, speaker, and researcher, Kory L. Meyerink, the show will feature a wide range of "how-to" elements designed to assist all people interested in family history, from the novice to the professional. In addition to answering general questions from listeners, spotlighting important family history news, and providing research tips from professionals, the show will include guests from among the most prominent genealogists today. The show will also explore effective ways to use software and the Internet in the pursuit of family history, including spotlighting data-rich websites. In addition, an "interactive" feature will walk listeners through the use of important sites, while they are listening to the broadcast.

The addition of an interactive website and downloadable archives of past shows will provide many more listener options than available via traditional radio broadcasts. To listen to the show live, log-on to the VoiceAmerica Channel at <http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com>.

Kory will take calls toll free at 1-866-472-5788. All past shows will be archived and available in MP3 format for podcast download. <http://www.voice.voiceamerica.com>

Research Tips

In this part of this newsletter we will attempt to pass along some tips and tricks that may assist you in breaking down those “brick walls” that all of us encounter during our research. We intend to present a new idea or two in each subsequent newsletter so please feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions for tips & time saving tricks to add to include in future columns.

Ignore Surnames ??

Yes, that's right! Ignore the surname. Sometimes fixating on surnames just limits our ability to find our ancestors, especially when we're using digital data-bases. We've found that scanning the *given names* instead or entering only given names and other criteria in search forms will frequently result in success when the surname was illegible, oddly spelled or incorrectly indexed. And occasionally, you can even find married daughters and remarried widows this way.

Submitted by Tom Peiffer

When You're Stuck, Write it Up

One of the best ways to break through a barrier in genealogical research is to stop and write your findings in a detailed report for yourself. The process of gathering your information, entering it in a narrative sequence, citing the sources you used, explaining why you used the sources you did and what they revealed, often points out gaps in your research that you hadn't noticed before or new ideas to pursue. Maybe you forgot to check all possible variants of the name; perhaps the time span you searched was inappropriate. It could just be that you actually have all the information you need to solve the problem, you just hadn't put it all together in the right order to see the connections. So the next time you're finding yourself stuck, write it up!

Submitted by Tom Peiffer



OUR FAMILY TREE AT ROOTSWEB



New Generations Added To The TODD And ROBERTSON Family Lines. Lungslow Surname Corrected to LANGSTON and Updated.

An updated version of our database was recently uploaded to the World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **31** new names have been added to our database over the past three months. We now have information on **2,176** persons, which include, not only 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.

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.

Please know that we would always welcome any new information that you may have on our common ancestors.

OUR MATERNAL AND PATERNAL ANCESTORS: 300 YEARS OF HISTORY IN AMERICA

WHAT'S NEW AT OUR WEBSITE??

Honoring and Researching our Family War Veterans New Web Pages for Ancestral Locations in Germany

We've created a new web page entitled [Researching Our War Vets](#). It is designed to provide information that will assist with the research of our ancestors' military experiences. The page contains four key sections as follows: a description of major American wars; supplementary information about each war; general military information; and a guide to U.S. military records. A corresponding page, [War Veterans - Moreland, McVicker, Pinnell, Scruggs](#), has specific information about the Veterans found in this database.

During our research we've come across the names of many German towns and villages that were the homes of some families. In an effort to ensure that we are referring to the correct location we've launched into a research project to find where exactly these locations are to be found in the

modern state of Germany. As such new pages have been added to the website. We hope these assist you with regard to furthering your research into German ancestral locations. Below you will find a listing of the several new pages.

Because we usually update this site several times between the publishing of this newsletter you 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 I would appreciate an email from you just to let me know that you've found your way to our online website.

NEW AND REVISED SURNAME PAGES:

[Booker](#); [Langston](#); [Neely](#); [Robertson](#); [Ross](#); [Todd](#); [Walker](#); [Wright](#);

NEW SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

[Douglass](#); [Moreland](#); [Neely](#); [Ross](#); [Walker](#);
[Will of Isabella Langston](#)

NEW & REVISED ANCESTRAL LOCATION PAGES:

USA STATES & COUNTIES:

[Adams Co. PA](#); [Alabama](#); [Albemarle Co. VA](#); [Arkansas](#);
[Augusta Co., VA](#); [California](#); [Charles Co., MD](#); [Stevens Co. KS](#)

WORLD STATES & LOCALITIES:

[Cockpen, Scotland](#); [Midlothian, Scotland](#);
[Germany](#); [Karlsruhe Region, Germany](#); [Karlsruhe District, Germany](#); [Kraichtal, Germany](#);
[Rein-Neckar District, Germany](#); [Sinsheim, Germany](#); [Sulzfeld, Germany](#)

Photo and Image archives developed for the following counties:

[Philadelphia Co., PA](#); [Adams Co. PA](#); [Albemarle Co. VA](#)
[Kraichtal, Germany](#); [Sinsheim, Germany](#); [Sulzfeld, Germany](#)

SURNAME SEARCH

PINNELL

Featured Databases	Matches	Other Searches	Matches
WorldConnect	5,034	Australia and New Zealand Records	5
Social Security Death Index	712	Alumni Lists	5
Rootsweb Surname List	19	Book Indexes	1
		Cemetery Listings	5
		Census Records	12
		BLM/GRO Land Records	6
Vital Records	Matches	Obituaries	16
California Death Index	155	Plat Records	4
Texas Death Index	50	POW/MIA Records	2
Kentucky Death Index	38	British, UK and Ireland Data	8
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	2	Military Records	3
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	5	Newspaper Indexes	6
South Dakota Birth Index	3	Tax and Voter Lists	6
Early Death Records	1	Professional, Society, Religious Groups	2
Pre-1920 Marriages	11	Obituary Daily Times	147
Pre-1920 Births	2		

"Surname Search" features matches found at [RootsWeb.com](#) of a direct line surname in our database. Follow the links to information that may be useful and hopefully rekindle your own research into this family as well as other topics at RootsWeb. To see what information we have uncovered on this family follow the links to our [website](#), and [database](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

"McVicker, Moreland, Pinnell, Scruggs and allied families" is a family-history newsletter published quarterly by Frederick G. Siler, 889 Dante Court, Mantua, New Jersey 08051. It is available both in print and online. Print copies may be obtained through written correspondence that includes a SASE. The online version is sent as an attachment to an email message. Issues are also posted at: [MMPS Newsletter TOC](#). Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.

Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!