



McVicker, Moreland, Pinnell, Scruggs; and allied families



A Family History Newsletter

Genealogy is Hereditary



My ancestors did WHAT?

Genealogy is Hereditary



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WELCOME

Hello Everyone;

Welcome to the **Winter 2011** issue of the *McVicker, Moreland, Pinnell, Scruggs* (MMPS) family newsletter. We've included you on my mailing list because you are someone who shares a common interest of searching for information on the surnames associated with our maternal family line. We hope that some of the topics addressed within this newsletter will assist you with your genealogical endeavors.

This issue's **Feature Article** is about the history of our Douglass family ancestors, and how they migrated across from the shores of the Atlantic to the Pacific coast between c. 1750 – 1857.

News of Interest to the Family Historian presents items about the National Archives' New Website, improvements in performing a basic search at Ancestry.com, and more "Best FREE Web-sites for USA Researchers".

A quarterly accounting of the **MMPS Database** at the *RootsWeb World Connect Project* indicates the addition of one new direct ancestral family line, as well as 9 new individual records.

Take time to look at the new and revised web

pages and image galleries recently uploaded to the **Maternal and Paternal Ancestors Website** at *RootsWeb's Freepages*. Included here are pages containing worthwhile information about individual surnames, and ancestral locations, as well as a **NEW** special topic of Free Genealogy records as well as other topics such as military units, our genealogy reference book library, and historic American roads.

You are reminded to check out the **Research Connections** to see if anyone else is researching your family or a similar surname.

The **BALL** surname is featured in the **Surname Search** section. "Surname Search" displays matches of a surname in our database to the huge resources found at RootsWeb.com.

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 our mailing list please let us know and we will stop sending to you. To read our previous newsletters, see the link in the **Contact Information** section of this issue.

Fred & Tom

A QUOTE TO NOTE

People will never look forward to Posterity who never look backward to their ancestors. - Edmund Burke

FEATURE ARTICLE

Our Douglass Ancestors: Scotch-Irish Pioneers of America

The story of our Douglass ancestors begins in Scotland with John Douglass born around 1660.

Because of the hardships suffered by many lowland Scots John migrated to the Plantation of Ulster in Northern Ireland. His son Robert was born there, in County Antrim, around 1700.

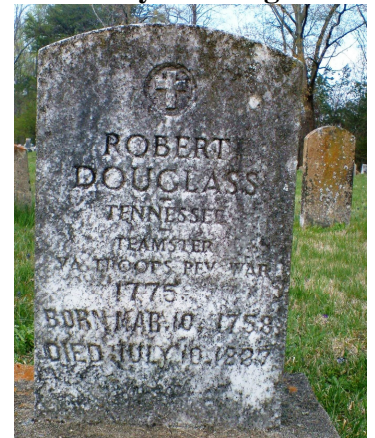


Robert Douglass came to Virginia sometime between 1739 and 1757 and as such is recognized as the progenitor of our Douglass family in America. Robert was most likely typical of the Scotch-Irish pioneers who settled in America during the 18th century in that they brought along their devout Presbyterian animosity toward Papists and Anglicans alike thus a political activism of the querulous and boat-rocking variety. These folk were tough, stubborn, touchy, combative, and full of energy. After coming to America, Robert and his wife, Mary, moved to the back country and settled in Augusta County, Virginia, where their son, Robert Douglass, Jr., was born March 10, 1758. Robert Douglass, Sr. moved from Augusta County to Campbell County, Virginia in 1792. Robert Sr. died December 16, 1795, aged 95 years, 11 months, 15 days. He is buried in Campbell County.

Robert Douglass, Jr., born in 1758, was the fourth of five known offspring produced by Robert and Mary Cummings Douglass. It is believed that his middle name may have been Buson. On September 3, 1777 Robert enlisted into the militia and served at various times during the Revolutionary War, amounting to 8 months. His rank was that of a private with the Virginia Troops and he most likely was a teamster. He served under Capt. John Talbot and Colonels Mason and Vance and was present at the famous siege of Yorktown that eventually ended the war. According to sources Robert was also a Private in the Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. He would have had to been at least 54 years old at the time! In 1784 he married Elizabeth Robertson. A few years later, in 1787, Robert and his young family moved from

Augusta County, Virginia to the upper part of East Tennessee. This event occurred before the state of Tennessee was even formed. They settled first in Blount County, then Sevier County, finally moving on to McMinn County, Tennessee in 1822. The Douglass clan had come from the Virginia frontier, moving down mountain valleys into this new region as the Indians moved out, perhaps at times before. They doubtless knew what they were about, and thought only of making their homes and a livelihood in such a land, with all the fearlessness and steadfastness of purpose that characterized these Scotch-Irish frontiersmen. The Douglass homestead in Tennessee was near the site of the ancient Cherokee town of Conasaga, said to have been visited by DeSoto and his expedition, June 1, 1540. A short way to the east is the grave and one-time home of Nancy Ward, "Beloved Woman" of the Cherokee and loyal friend of the white settlers; while to the northeast, along the south bank of the Little Tennessee, were the early towns of the Overhill Cherokee -- Milaquo, Tuskegee (birthplace of Sequoyah), Tomotly, Toquo, Chota, Cittico, Chilhowee, Talasee, Half Way Town and the site of ill-fated Fort Loudon, which fell to besieging Cherokee in 1760, with subsequent massacre of its garrison. Robert passed away at the age of 79

years. He and his wife are buried in the Salem Baptist Churchyard, near Coghill in McMinn County, Tennessee. Robert Douglass' grave has been marked by the D.A.R. as that of a soldier of the American Revolution because of his aforementioned service with the Virginia troops.



Robert's son John Douglass was born March 9, 1793, the fifth of eight children born to Robert and Elizabeth Robertson. As a young man John fought in the War of 1812 in Capt. Jehu Stephens Company. At the time of his marriage to Nancy Bishop in 1817 John Douglass was a tall, purposeful, hardy and

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experience frontiersman, of almost twenty-four years. He became successful as a farmer and stock grower in McMinn County. John owned a Grist Mill and a Saw Mill on Conasauga Creek. John's son-in-law William Cass later owned the mill. John Douglass died in 1863, at the age of 70, when someone who was stealing a chest that



Old Cog Hill Mill begun
by John Douglas

contained some of his gold shot him from ambush. Since John and his wife Nancy were both of staunch Presbyterian stock, it seems a little odd that they should be at rest in a Baptist churchyard. Family tradition has it that John developed irrepressible ambitions to preach in his later years, and as he lacked the theological training required by the Presbyterian Church, he did his exhorting for the Baptists. Be that as it may. John and Nancy lie side by side in Salem Baptist churchyard, with the graves of his father and mother nearby. John Douglass was quite content to live his life in McMinn County, Tennessee, where all of his offspring married and made their homes, with the exception of our 3rd great-grandmother Sarah Rebecca Douglass (1829-1913).

Sarah was much like her ancestors in that she yearned to move on to "greener pastures". Immediately after her 1848 marriage to William Rhodes the young couple left Tennessee never to return. Soon thereafter they settled in Rusk County, Texas. During the seven or eight years in Rusk County Sarah bore 5 of her 13 children. In the summer of 1857 Sarah and her family joined up with the Duke and Turner wagon train and began the long and dangerous trek west to California. The wagon train traveled west by the southern route, known as the Old Spanish Trail. At the Platte River it was necessary to block up the beds in the wagons to keep them out of the water during the crossing. Apparently a box did float off with three children and their mother in it. During journey the Rhodes family narrowly missed becoming involved in the now famous massacre at Mountain Meadows located in the Utah Territory. According to historical accounts all of the members of the Baker-Fancher

wagon train, save seventeen children, were murdered by Indians and Mormons on September 7, 1857. It is known that the wagon train containing the Rhodes family did travel with the Baker-Fancher companies from time to time for mutual protection against Indians due to harassment from them. The frequency of this harassment was probably due to fact that the Duke group had a sizable herd of cattle. It is also probable that because of the difficulties with moving the herd the Duke and Turner wagon train was two or three days behind the ill-fated Baker train on that awful day of the massacre. After learning of the event they paid some Mormons to lead them and were guided on a route skirting the meadow. In order to escape a like fate the members of the train in which the Rhodes family was traveling, took a circuitous route over a very dangerous and mountainous country. So steep was the country that the wagons had to be let down over the mountains by ropes. The oxen were able to get down by themselves, but could never have done so while hitched to a wagon. They traveled the meadow at night a week after the massacre. In all it took the party several months to cross the plains and mountains. They eventually arrived in San Bernardino, California on October 1, 1857. It was from these various immigrant wagon parties that newspapers in Los Angeles and San Francisco pieced together a story of the attack at Mountain Meadows that so outraged the nation.

Upon arrival in California Sarah and William traded their team and wagon to some Mormons for a furnished home. at San Bernardino, where they lived for about two or three years. By 1860 the family moved on to Tulare County locating near the present site of Farmersville. One can readily understand that Sarah was definitely a "tough old woman" who exemplified the pioneer spirit that made the great westward expansion possible during the 19th century. Sarah lived the remainder of her years in Tulare County. She passed away in 1913 at the age of 85 years and is buried in the Porterville Cemetery.



Sarah Rebecca
(Douglass) Rhodes

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Take a Look at the National Archives' New Website

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the agency that houses federal records including censuses, passenger lists, military service papers and more, launched its redesigned website at, <http://archives.gov/>, on Dec. 13th. NARA developed the new site with help from users through surveys, voting, card sorts (a way of figuring out how users would organize the site) and usability testing. The newly revised site features the following: a new home page, selected by public vote in July; a new interactive map

of NARA's facilities nationwide; historical documents and streamlined access to military service records; topically organized sections focused on the needs of both casual browsers and professional researchers (the current site divides articles for genealogists, researchers, members of the general public, etc., leading to multiple sections on the same topic); and easy links to NARA's social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and blogs.

Some "Good News" submitted by our Readers

Obama is related to WHO??

And you thought it was strange to hear that Barack Obama was related to Dick Cheney. Well, betcha can't guess who he's related to now!

Yup — the president has family ties to none other than Sarah Palin, according to the genealogists at Ancestry.com, a discovery the family history site made when looking for connections between political foes.

And that's not all — Obama also is apparently related to radio host and relentless critic Rush Limbaugh. Might you want to reconsider some of your recent comments, Mr. Limbaugh, now that you're apparently family?

A genealogist at the Utah-based Ancestry.com, Anastasia Tyler, said Obama and Palin are 10th cousins through a common ancestor named John Smith, a pastor and early settler in 17th-century Massachusetts. Obama is related to Smith through his mother, as is Palin, Tyler said.

"Smith was against the persecution of the Quakers," Tyler said in an interview. "He was a very socially conscious man."

As for Limbaugh, he's also a 10th cousin of the president — one time removed — through a common ancestor named Richmond Terrell, who Tyler said was a large landowner in Virginia, also in the 17th century. "His history is a little more nebulous," Tyler said.

Submitted by Margaret Kerr Beckwith, at: margbeckwith@verizon.net, along with the following words of wisdom, "As a genealogist/family historian, I always find these facts very interesting! As the saying goes: "Be careful what you say because you may be talking about your relatives!"

If you have any research tips, recipes, photographs, web links, news articles, maps, etc. that you would like to share with our readers please feel free to send them to me at silrem@comcast.net.

Ancestry.com Improves Basic Search Flexibility

Ancestry.com, the subscription genealogy website at <http://www.ancestry.com/>, has made changes to its basic search form. Ancestry.com says its users asked for more flexibility in entering place and date information: What if you don't know when and where an ancestor was born, but you do know he lived in a certain place at a certain time?

Now you should be able to enter a place into a "Name a place your ancestor might have lived" field. That will search Ancestry.com records for any life events, such as birth, residence, marriage, military service and death records that match that location. User testing revealed this moved relevant matches up in

search results.

The new form also adds a "Calculate it" button, which will estimate a birth year based on when your ancestor lived in the place you specify. If you do know when your ancestor was born, married, died, served in the military or lived someplace else, you can click an "Add an event" link to add one of these life events and the place and date of that event.

Finally, the links to clear the form and show the Advanced Search form have moved to the bottom of the Basic Search form, next to the Search button. The changes will become available to all users over the next few weeks.

Best FREE Web-sites for USA Researchers

Overwhelmed by the number of family history-related Web sites popping up? The folks at FamilyTreeMagazine <<http://tinyurl.com/re5ryu>> have taken the time to sort through them to bring us the best. As a result they have recently identified the following worthwhile websites:

Making of America: University of Michigan and Cornell University - These tandem sites serve up more than 4.7 million pages from historic books and journals chronicling America's story. Recent additions include 99 volumes about New York City and many titles about the Civil War. You'll find the search engine on the Cornell University site at <http://tinyurl.com/29xp9a7>.

Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative - This new site, located at <http://tinyurl.com/768tq> is a one-stop shop for digitized historical records, abstracts and indexes from the state archives and other repositories throughout Missouri. Use the links under Collections to access the Missouri Soldiers Database, historical photos, maps, birth and death records, naturalizations, coroner's inquest abstracts, a state supreme court case index, newspapers and more. The record you need isn't

digitized? Click the link to the Local Records Inventory Database, which can help you find out where to write for copies of your ancestors' county-level records.

Massachusetts Archives - at <http://tinyurl.com/2pdpfs>
The star attractions here are the index to vital records (1841 to 1910) and the in-progress database that will index more than 1 million immigrants through the port of Boston from 1848 to 1891.

National Archives and Records Administration
This site at <http://archives.gov/> will not only help you get started researching in person at the National Archives' Washington, DC, headquarters and its regional facilities around the country, but it increasingly lets you tap its treasures from home. Access to Archival Databases encompasses more than 85 million historical records, including extracts from WWII Army enlistment papers and 19th-century arrivals of German, Italian, Irish and Russian immigrants. For historical photos and maps and American Indian records, try the Archival Research Catalog.

If you have any ideas, and or information you might have regarding ways to enhance our researching experiences. Send them to me at silrem@comcast.net.



Database Updates



Our **Moreland-Scruggs Family Line** database at *Ancestry.Com* currently contains the records of **3,146** persons. The database can be viewed by all Ancestry subscribers. This tree will change every three months as we edit, remove, or otherwise modify the data therein.

An updated version of our **MMPS** Database was recently uploaded to the, open to all and FREE, World Connect site at RootsWeb.com. **Nine** new records have been added over the past three months. We now have information on **3,026** persons. 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 out the website 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.

The Database at Roots.web free for all to use. It is located at: <http://tinyurl.com/4z3ky6>. You may also access our family tree by going to: <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>.

The Database at Ancestry.com can only be accessed by subscribers. It is located at the Home Page <http://www.ancestry.com/> in the "Search" pull-down button under "Public Member Trees".

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

WHAT'S NEW AT THE WEBSITE??

Our Ancestors: 380 Years of History in America

New Sub-Site Links to FREE Genealogy Records and Databases

Since we usually update our website several times between the publishing of this newsletter you are reminded and encouraged to periodically review what is new with regard to the family information and genealogical resources contained at, **Our Maternal & Paternal Ancestors 350 Years of History in America: An Archive of Genealogical Information.** To access the site's Home Page use the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>.

Over the past three months **two** new or revised surname pages, as well as several source documents and images have been uploaded to the **MMPS Subsite**. Both the MMPS **War Veterans** and **Immigrant Ancestors** pages have been updated with new information.

At our **Ancestral Locations** sub-site **nine** new or revised web pages have been created and added. Pages for all of our ancestral states have now been completed as well as all U.S. counties. All of the Ancestral Locations images galleries have been revised and uploaded during the past three months.

The scope and volume of the various sub-sites created for our **Special Topics** continued to increase since the last issue of this newsletter. We have created a **NEW** special topic sub-site that contains hundreds of links to **Free Genealogy Records and Databases**. Here you will find separate web pages for each of fourteen subject areas that include: biographies, birth, cemetery, census, church, court, death, immigration & naturalization, land, marriage, military, newspapers, occupational, and tax records. Most of these free records come from websites such as Family Search,

Ancestry.com, Distant Cousin, and various U.S. State archives.

We have continued to upgrade and increase the number of volumes within our **Genealogy Reference Library**. As a result of our growing library of books we've added a separate page for the North Carolina collection. Most of these books are fully searchable and can be downloaded to your computer. In addition text may be cut & pasted directly to your family tree software or other document.

Readers who have an interest in **Historic American Roads And Migration Routes** should take a look at the new and updated image galleries that have recently been uploaded to the website. Major revisions have been accomplished to the page that addresses routes taken by pioneers to settle in the Northeastern U.S. states such as New York and Pennsylvania. We also posted a revised page on the Mohawk Turnpike.

We've revised our **Research Tools** webpage by creating links to the many forms, worksheets and letter formats offer for use at the "Family Search" website. We are especially pleased about the complete overhaul of our "Source and Citation Formats" webpage. We believe that it will be beneficial to our readers who truly believe in citing their sources.

As with the database you may find some new information that will enhance your own research or you may want to advise us of some new information that we can include at the site. Either way we would appreciate an email from you just to let me know that you've found your way to our online website.

NEW AND REVISED "MMPS" SURNAME PAGES

To these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/56odpr>>.

MMPS SURNAME INDEX: Gobel; Johnson(1);

MMPS SOURCE DOCUMENTS:

PICTURE GALLERY ARCHIVES:

SPECIALTY PAGES: War Veterans; Immigrant Ancestors

NEW & REVISED "ANCESTRAL LOCATION" PAGES

To access these pages follow this link <<http://tinyurl.com/5rcafv>>.

UNITED STATES: States – Arizona; Delaware **Counties** – Henrico Co., VA^{NEW}; Kent Co., DE^{NEW}; Loudoun Co., VA; Montgomery Co., VA^{NEW}; New Castle Co., DE^{NEW}; Talbot Co., MD^{NEW}; Washington Co., VA^{NEW}

GERMANY:

UNITED KINGDOM:

NEW & REVISED “ANCESTRAL LOCATIONS” PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES

To access these pages follow this **link** <<http://tinyurl.com/nczbsj>>.

UNITED STATES: All have been revised

GERMANY: All have been revised

UNITED KINGDOM: All have been revised

“SPECIAL TOPICS” NEW & REVISED PAGES

To access these pages follow this **link** <<http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>>.

FREE GENEALOGY RECORDS & DATABASES: Biography & Obituary; Cemetery; Census; Church; Court; Death; Immigration & Naturalization; Land; Marriage; Military; Newspaper; Occupational; Tax

GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY: General Reference Collection; United Kingdom Reference; United Kingdom Locations; France Reference; Germany Reference; USA Reference; USA Locations; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Jersey; New York; Pennsylvania; North Carolina^{NEW}; South Carolina; Virginia

HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES: Northeastern Migration Routes; Mohawk Turnpike

RESEARCHING OUR WAR VETERANS:

OTHER: Research Tools; Source and Citation Formats^{NEW}; Immigrant Ancestors Research

“SPECIAL TOPICS” NEW & REVISED PHOTO & IMAGE ARCHIVES

To access these pages follow this **link** <<http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>>.

HISTORIC AMERICAN ROADS AND MIGRATION ROUTES:

MILITARY Image Galleries:

OTHER:

RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

Since the first issue of this newsletter was created its distribution list has grown significantly. Along the way we have interacted with many genealogists that have expressed an interest in one or more of the family lines contained within our MMPS database located at Roots Web. Because networking is a key to the success of any family historian we feel that it is important for this newsletter to help in making that connection. Below is a listing of several subscribers and the common family lines they are researching.

Who	Researching Surname(s)	Who	Researching Surname(s)
Debbie Johnson angellady862@hotmail.com	Warnock, Dowdle	Savannah Jordon lakegirltyler@yahoo.com	Moreland, Jones of Missouri and Oklahoma
Vanelle Mangers grandmagers@gvtc.com	Bishop, Hardy	Sherry Veith NONAMELDY52@aol.com	Bennett
Susan Norton nortoncrew@cableone.net	McVicker	Randy H. Schmidt peshewa@comcast.net	Thomas Holeman (1675-1723) m. Mary Moreland
Mary Flegel maryflegel@cableone.net	Johnson	Jody Logan dlogan1@wi.rr.com	Richard William Ross b. 1823, m. Susan Lease.
Luann Seamons lubose@plmw.com	Green, Bracken of New Castle County, Delaware	Jerry Deatherage jerryditdotdeatherage@yahoo.com	James A. Deatherage born c. 1825 in Tennessee

Gay Edens Carrigan
gaedcar@xipline.com

Peter Eades, born ca 1773-79,
 Albemarle Co., VA, m. Sarah
 Henderson Sandridge, 1803

Kasey Hart
angelkcp23@angelic.com

Peachee family of
 Burlington, Co., &
 Salem Co., NJ

If you would like to be included on this list or if should any of the above named persons would like their information deleted or revised contact Fred at silrem@comcast.net.

SURNAME SEARCH

Surname Search” features one of our direct ancestral surnames in our database to records found at RootsWeb.com that may be useful and hopefully rekindle your own research into this family as well as other topics at RootsWeb.

The **BALL** surname is featured in this newsletter. Our 7th great-grandmother Martha Ball was born about 1685 in Scotland. She married James Kerr. Martha died in 1771 at Augusta County, Virginia.

To view what information we have uncovered on this family surname follow the links to our Website at <http://tinyurl.com/3lbrly>, and Database at <http://tinyurl.com/4z3ky6>.

Search RootsWeb.com		
<input type="text"/>	Ball	<input type="button" value="Search"/>
First Name	Last Name	By Keyword

To access the databases listed below follow this address:

<http://searches.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>.

At the Rootsweb Home Page type this or any other surname into the “Last Name” box and click “Search”.

Ball Surname

Featured Databases	Matches
WorldConnect	376,684
Social Security Death Index	30,260
Rootsweb Surname List	578
Vital Records	Matches
California Death Index	3,286
Texas Death Index	1,325
Kentucky Death Index	2,152
Kentucky Marriage Index Husband	908
Kentucky Marriage Index Wife	854
Maine Death Index	59
South Dakota Birth Index	30
World War One Draft Index	420
Early Death Records	280
Pre-1920 Marriages	290
Pre-1920 Births	171
Other Searches	Matches
Web Site Search	62,024
Swedish Records	1

Other Searches (continued)	Matches
Australia and New Zealand Records	300
Alumni Lists	113
Book Indexes	289
Canadian Records	2
Cemetery Listings	2
Church Records	19
BLM/GRO Land Records	613
Naturalization Records	8
Obituaries	126
Plat Records	12
POW/MIA Records	5
British, UK and Ireland Data	207
Atlas/Gazetteer Listings	3
Deeds	1
Military Records	62
Newspaper Indexes	281
Tax and Voter Lists	13
Utah State Archives	5
Professional, Society, Religious Groups	15

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 an SASE. The online version is sent as an attachment via email. Issues are also posted in our Newsletters Archive at <http://tinyurl.com/4eld8o>. Submissions of articles, photos, documents, etc., are strongly encouraged. Please email to silrem@comcast.net.



Someday you'll be an Ancestor too!

