

## OUR FAMILY STORY

### Summer 2004

*Hello everyone;*

Welcome to the **eighth** 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.

The information contained in this issue will focus upon some of our Pinnell family ancestors. Jerre' Moreland's mother was Mary Etta Pinnell. She was born in Maries County, Missouri in 1863. Having known my Grandfather Jerre' Moreland during his lifetime I always wondered what influenced him to seek a very high level of formal education as well as become an educational administrator and minister in the Methodist Church. Did this influence come from the Moreland side or the Pinnell side or did Jerre make the decision to seek a life other than farming? From my research it appears that his mother and her Pinnell ancestors heavily influenced the road he took in life. In fact I'd like to think that the Pinnell legacy has extended through several more generations because both my mother Eleanor Moreland and me were greatly influenced by Jerre' to also become educators!



Mary Etta Pinnell



Jerre' F. Moreland

### **THE PINNELL FAMILY OF MISSOURI**

**Peter Pinnell** was born in 1755 near that part of South Carolina that would eventually become the Camden District in 1769 and York County in 1785. He married **Nancy Yarber** in 1777 when he was 22 years old. Peter and Nancy lived in and around York, Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, (all located in northwest South Carolina). Peter was a soldier having served with the South Carolina State Troops during the American Revolution. A record has also been found that Peter had also enlisted on 15 February 1781 at Camden, South Carolina for 60 days as a member of Captain George Dawkins', South Carolina Royalists, and that he mustered in with this group from 24 February 1781 to 24 April 1781. While living in South Carolina he made application for a Revolutionary War pension. His war service pension is listed in the Pension Roll of 1835. Peter and his family left this area sometime between 1801 and 1804. They moved on to

Livingston County, in southwestern Kentucky, which is now part of Caldwell County. On April 17, 1804 Peter purchased 400 acres of land in Livingston County south of the Green River on Flynn Fork. Flynn Fork is located approximately 14 miles northeast of Princeton, Kentucky. He and his family lived in this location up until about 1830 when he moved on to Crawford County in Missouri. Peter died in Crawford County in 1845 at the ripe old age of 90. He is buried in Pinnell Cemetery located in Crawford County, Missouri.

**Asa Pinnell**, eldest son of Revolutionary War soldier Peter Pinnell, was born in Greenville County, South Carolina on December 12, 1792. Some sometime between 1801 and 1804 Asa accompanied his parents and siblings as they moved west to Livingston County, Kentucky. At the age of about 20 years he married Miss **Elizabeth Clemens** in Christian County, Kentucky. In 1813 the young couple struck out for Missouri, reaching it that same year. Although Asa and Elizabeth eventually settled east of Lanes Prairie in what is now Maries County the Pinnell family name is well represented in Crawford County as well. As such it is most probable that the Pinnell's lead by Asa's father Peter moved into Missouri together, and that Asa resided in that county for a few years before coming to the area that is now part of Maries County. The fact that he came to Maries County a short time after coming to Missouri is definitely known. The date is most likely between 1815 and 1818. It is most probable that he pushed other early settlers such as the Johnson and Snodgrass families hard for the honored place as the "first settler", and if he did not win the race, he undoubtedly ran a close second. Asa was one of the first justices of the peace of Crawford County. That part of the county east of Lanes Prairie in which he lived remained a part of Crawford County almost forty years after he settled it. In fact he moved into the area so early that it was at least 10 years before Crawford County itself was formed. Asa also followed in the footsteps of his father Peter as a minister in the Methodist Church. It was in this capacity that he performed the first recorded wedding in the county, in 1824, when he married James Coyle and Mary Johnson. He was a member of the first Crawford County Grand Jury in 1831, and Presiding Judge of the County Court in 1835. Asa was quite active in public affairs during his long life right up until his death in 1871 when he was 78 years of age.

**William Lewis Pinnell**, the third and last son produced by Asa and Elizabeth Pinnell, was born on January 27, 1824 in that part of old Gasconade County that eventually became a part of present day Maries County. William married **Mary Johnson**, the daughter of **Disbury Johnson**, in what is now Maries County on August 13, 1844 when he was 20 and his bride was 18. Other sources give the marriage date as 22 January 1845 but it seems that the 1844 date is much more consistent with the birth of their first child Asa in July, 1845. The family of William Pinnell first appears in the 1850 census. At that time they were living in Jefferson Twp., Osage Co., Missouri. Living with William and Mary were sons Asa age 5 and Lunsford age 2. Also there is a John listed as being age 12. This could not be another son because of his age. This John may have been an orphan child, or relative taken in by the family. William and his family are listed in the 1870 census as still living in Jefferson Twp., which in March 1855 became a part of the newly formed Maries County. At this time the family consisted of William his wife

Mary and three children, Ida M. age 9, Mary Etta age 7, William M. Age 5. Also living with the family was William's father Asa, age 77, and mother Elizabeth, age 71. William stated that the value of his farm was \$2,500 as opposed to the value of \$150 reported in the 1850 census.

The family of William Pinnell is found in the 1880 census in addition to his wife Mary are Mary Etta (age 17), son William B. (age 14), and a 7 month old baby named Pearl who is listed as a daughter to William and Mary. It is most probable that Pearl Pinnell is really the daughter of Mary Etta who was eventually adopted by **Jeremiah Moreland** after his marriage to Mary Etta in 1883, and raised as Pearl Moreland. It is interesting to note that in all of the census documents William lists his occupation as that of a farmer. Yet according to King's "History of Maries County" William practiced law in addition to being a schoolteacher and a preacher. King also notes that William's house known as "Double Chimneys" was the home of Methodism in the east end of the Maries County. The notion that he was a Methodist minister and practiced law is consistent with the vocations of his forefathers Asa and Peter Pinnell.

During his lifetime William fathered at least five children of whom there were 3 sons, Asa, Lunsford, and William, as well as 2 daughters, Ida, and Mary Etta. He lived his entire life in what is now Maries County Missouri, and died there as the age 63 on July 17, 1887.

### **DID YOU KNOW??? !!!**

Our Great-Grandparents Joseph C. and Francis P. Scruggs had seven sons who fought for the Southern Confederacy during the American Civil War. They are; Joseph Anthony, Calvin Scott, James Egington, Samuel Monroe, William Perkins, Abram Eades Theophilus, and our Grandfather Albea Edgar Scruggs.

### **A QUOTE TO NOTE**

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does." William James

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

*Frederick Siler  
889 Dante Court  
Mantua, NJ 08051*

*Phone: 856.468.9394  
Email: silrem@comcast.net*