

331/D-866

historic structure report

Historical Data

COWPENS ROBERT SCRUGGS HOUSE



NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE / SOUTH CAROLINA

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4/29/2004



HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
ROBERT SCRUGGS HOUSE
HISTORICAL DATA
COWPENS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE
SOUTH CAROLINA

by

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DENVER, COLORADO

November 1974

F 277 .C5 B4247 1974 c.1
Bearss, Edwin C.
Historic structure report,
Robert Scruggs house,

PREFACE

This monograph--Historic Structure Report, Robert Scruggs House, Historical Data--has been prepared to satisfy the research needs as outlined in discussions with Superintendent Ben Moomaw of Kings Mountain National Military Park, Archeologist Jack Walker of the Southeast Archeological Center, and Historical Architect Hugh Miller of the Division of Park Historic Architecture. All available sources, both published and manuscript, have been examined and pertinent material extracted. Members of the Scruggs family and neighbors, familiar with the house, have been interviewed. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Rosa Scruggs Garrett the house was examined by Messrs. Miller, Walker, and the author. The data gathered has been compiled into a report designed to provide architects with a structural history of the Robert Scruggs House and grounds; museum curators with data useful in preparation of a furnishing plan; and interpreters with information on the cultural and social history of the Scruggs family and the community.

Many persons have assisted during preparation of this report. A special note of thanks is in order for Mrs. Rosa Scruggs Garrett--granddaughter of the builder, Robert Scruggs--who was born in the house in 1894 and has lived in it for almost 80 years. She welcomed us on numerous occasions, cheerfully sharing with us her recollections and family papers.

As always, particular thanks are extended to my friends at Kings Mountain National Military Park--Superintendent Ben Moomaw, Historian Jim Anderson, Ranger Doug Thompson, Management Assistant Don Crawford, and Maintenance men Earl Huskey and Jerry Bowen--for their assistance and encouragement.

County officials and their employees at the Cherokee and Spartanburg county courthouses in Gaffney and Spartanburg, South Carolina, and at the Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, North Carolina, were pleasant and helpful. Director Charles Lee of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina, and three members of his staff (Ken Kitt, Harold Devorne, and Robert Mackintosh) gave of their knowledge and expeditiously handled my many requests.

In addition to Rosa Scruggs Garrett, these members of the Scruggs family and longtime neighbors invited us into their homes and cheerfully shared recollections of the Robert Scruggs House,

the family, and community: Mesdames Ruth Scruggs Hatchette, Lillie Martin Scruggs, Leona Martin Jolley, Jessie Scruggs Ellison, and Vaud Scruggs Jolley, and Mr. James W. Scruggs.

Local historians--Mrs. C. M. Moser of Shelby, North Carolina; the Honorable Sam Manning, State Representative from Spartanburg County; Professor Bobby Moss of the faculty of Limestone College; and Jack Blanton of Gaffney--shared their information.

Henry Hilliard, a land specialist with the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office, is owed a special debt for the excellent rapport he has opened and maintained with the local people, which expedited and simplified the establishment of local contacts.

Dr. Harry Pfanz and Barry Mackintosh of the Division of History read the draft manuscript and made valuable comments. Jack Walker of the Southeast Archeological Center and Hugh Miller of the Division of Park Historic Architecture visited the area and shared their extensive knowledge of vernacular architecture.

Barbara Hudson of the Denver Service Center spent many hours typing this report, and George Hedricks prepared the accompanying line map of the Scruggs Farm in 1907.

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I. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Structure

Robert Scruggs House, Structure No. 1, Cowpens National Battlefield. This structure is of Third Order of Significance.

B. Proposed Use of Structure

The exterior of the structure will be restored to reflect its appearance ca. 1900, while the interior will be rehabilitated and refurnished to interpret the way of life of Robert Scruggs and others who lived in this section of the Carolina Piedmont in the 1850s.

C. Justification for Such Use

The Robert Scruggs House, erected about 1828, is a form of vernacular architecture that is rapidly disappearing from the region. Unless the Service takes measures to preserve and protect structures of this character, there will soon be none. Private organizations and individuals are generally interested in preservation of the more pretentious homes of the great planters and the wealthy, and have shown little interest in preservation and interpretation of structures such as the Scruggs House, which were typical of the region and a way of life.

D. Provision for Operating Structure

The restored Robert Scruggs House will be refurnished and employed to interpret life in the Carolina Piedmont in the 1850s.

E. Cooperative Agreement, if any, Executed or Proposed for Operating Structure

No cooperative agreement will be required to operate the structure.

F. Brief Description of Proposed Construction Activity

To restore the exterior of the Scruggs House to its appearance ca. 1900 will require: (a) replacement of the sheet metal roof with a shingle roof; (b) reconstruction of the north dormer; (c) stabilization of the west chimney and stabilization and partial reconstruction of the east chimney; (d) removal of the kitchen ell; (e) reconstruction

of the full-length south shed porch; and (f) replacement of deteriorated fabric where necessary.

To restore the interior of the structure to its appearance ca. 1850 will require the replacement of deteriorated fabric where necessary and elimination and replacement of fabric incompatible with the period.

Restoration of the grounds would involve: (a) relocation of the well to its historic site; (b) reconstruction of the privy and selected outbuildings; (c) restoration of the Scruggs Road as a historic trace; and (d) reestablishment of the Scruggs garden and orchard.

G. Estimated Cost of Construction

The cost estimate form will be a part of the architectural data section written by the historical architect.

II. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert Scruggs House, ca. 1828, is characteristic of the type of homes constructed in the Piedmont during the nineteenth century by yeoman farmers. These people and their way of life were more important politically and economically in the South than the great planters with their mansions and slave gangs.

The Scruggs House, as built, was a one-room log cabin with a loft and chimney and fireplace in its east elevation. As his family grew and he became more affluent, Robert Scruggs enlarged and framed in his log cabin. A second chimney and fireplace were erected at the west elevation of the addition. Changes to the house in the last 50 years have been minimal; thus it is an excellent example of a type of vernacular architecture which is rapidly disappearing from rural America.

Although built almost half a century after the Battle of the Cowpens, the Robert Scruggs House has long been associated with the battleground. From 1849, when Historian-Illustrator Benson J. Lossing stopped and chatted with Robert Scruggs, until the 1970s, students of the battle have paused at the Scruggs House to get directions, discuss the battle with the occupants, and orient themselves.

The Scruggs family, which moved to the Cowpens area from Rutherford County, North Carolina, in the first decade of the nineteenth century, have been community leaders for almost 175 years.

III. RICHARD SCRUGGS I: TRYON COUNTY PIONEER

A. His Land Transactions

Richard Scruggs I, progenitor of the Scruggs families which settled in the Cowpens area of Spartanburg District, South Carolina, in the first decade of the nineteenth century, was a descendent of Richard Scruggs, gentleman. Richard Scruggs, gentleman, a resident of Bedfordshire, England, had emigrated to the New World in 1655. He settled in Virginia, where he acquired several thousand acres in James City and New Kent counties, and fathered two sons of whom we have record--Henry and Richard. Richard Scruggs I was a descendent of the second son of Richard Scruggs, gentleman.¹

Richard Scruggs I, who was born before 1745 and married Prudence Hicks, was living in Tryon County, North Carolina, by 1774, the year before Concord and Lexington.²

On July 21, 1774, Richard Scruggs I and John Goff secured a patent to a Tryon County tract on Broad River.³

1. Scruggs Genealogy, with a Brief History of the Allied Families Briscoe, Dial, Dunklin, Leake and Price (New York, 1912), p. 22.

2. Personal Interview, Mrs. C. M. Moser with Bearss, Dec. 5, 1973. Mrs. Moser, regent of a local DAR chapter, has researched the Martin, Scruggs, and Ezell family histories. She kindly shared with me her knowledge and documents. Mrs. Moser lives at 713 West Graham, Shelby, N. C.

3. Rutherford County Deed Book 7-9, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, N. C., p. 52. On July 5, 1794, Richard Scruggs sold to Thomas Morrow for £10 the grant he and John Goff had received on July 21, 1774. The tract conveyed was to begin at a red oak on the second line 190 poles from the second corner of the old tract; then South 14° East 120 poles to the riverbank at a willow oak, marked for a corner by consent; then down the river 30 poles to the east corner of the old tract below the mouth of the creek; then North 14° West 120 poles to a pine, one of the old corners; and then along the old line 30 poles to a marked red oak, the point of beginning.

In 1778 the North Carolina Assembly enacted legislation dividing Tryon County into "two Distinct Counties by the names of Lincoln and Rutherford." The line separating the two new counties was to begin "on the South Carolina line, near Broad River, on the dividing ridge between Buffalo Creek and Little Broad River, then along the said ridge to the Burke County line." Upon the division and dissolution of Tryon County, the court records for Tryon County were secured by Lincoln County. Until 1781 officials of Lincoln County continued to use these books, following the Tryon County proceedings with those of newly constituted Lincoln County. The first county court for Rutherford County was held in April 1779 at Col. John Walker's residence north of Broad River.⁴

The area of Tryon County in which Richard Scruggs I lived was, upon the dissolution of the old jurisdiction, included in newly constituted Rutherford County. In October 1782, 22 months after the Battle of the Cowpens, Scruggs purchased from the State of North Carolina for "fifty shillings for every hundred acres," a 150-acre tract in Rutherford County. The subject tract was on the north side of "Main Broad River in the forks between Main Broad River & Second Broad River, including his own Improvements." Marking the boundary, the surveyor began at a gum on the riverbank and ran a line North 19° West 160 poles to a pine; then North 71° East 150 poles to a post; then South 19° East 160 poles to a black oak; and then to the beginning. The grant was signed by Alexander Martin, governor, captain-general, and commander-in-chief.⁵

The statement "his own improvements" in the deed leads to the conclusion that Richard Scruggs was already living on the 150 acres in 1782, when he secured from Governor Martin fee title to the tract. If so, he was probably residing here on January 17, 1781, when the Battle of the Cowpens was fought, 7 miles to the southwest.

Family tradition is that Richard Scruggs I was at home on the day of the fight and heard the sounds of the battle. If the wind were from the southeast and atmospheric conditions were favorable, this would have been possible.

4. Clarence W. Griffin, History of Old Tryon and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, 1730-1936 (Asheville, 1937), pp. 42, 45.

5. Rutherford County Deed Book A-D, p. 246.

In June 1804 Richard Scruggs I added to his Rutherford County acreage by purchase of a 100-acre tract for £10 from William Berry of Lincoln County. The Berry tract was on the west side of Second Broad River. Running the boundary, the surveyor began at a spanish oak and took a bearing South 18° East 30 poles to a pine; then North 72° East 180 poles to a hickory; then North 18° West 90 poles to a stake; and then South 72° West 180 poles to the beginning.⁶

B. His Revolutionary War Service

Richard Scruggs I served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the North Carolina militia.⁷

C. The Scruggs Family: 1790-1810

Richard and Prudence Scruggs had a large number of children. In 1790 the enumerator for the First Census for Morgan District of Rutherford County called at their home on Second Broad River. He reported that the household numbered ten individuals, five free white females, three males under 16, and two males 16 or older, one of whom would have been Richard Scruggs I.⁸

One of the neighbors was Will Dobbins, whose daughter Mary would become the wife of Richard Scruggs II. The father, like a number of the Scruggs boys, would move to the Cowpens area of Spartanburg District, where he purchased a farm adjoining on the south one owned by his son-in-law.⁹

Ten years later, when the enumerator for the Second Census called in the summer of 1800, nine persons composed the Richard Scruggs I household. There were two persons, a male and a female, 45 and older--Richard and Prudence Scruggs; two females, 16 to 26; one female, 10 to 16; two males, 16 to 26; one male, 10 to 16; and one male under 10.¹⁰

6. Rutherford County Deed Book 27-28, p. 208.

7. Griffin, History of Old Tryon, p. 99.

8. First Decennial Census, Rutherford County, N. C., National Archives.

9. Ibid.

10. Second Decennial Census, Rutherford County, N. C., National Archives.

Richard Scruggs II by 1800 had married Mary Dobbins and had established his own home. Three children, two boys and a girl, all under ten, were living with Richard and Mary Scruggs.¹¹

In the summer of 1810 the enumerator for the Third Census in Rutherford County made his rounds. The number of persons living in the Richard Scruggs I household on Second Broad River had shrunk in a decade from nine to five. In addition to Richard and Prudence Scruggs, there were three males in the household--two between 26 and 45 and one 16 to 26.¹²

D. Richard Scruggs I Makes His Will and Passes On

Richard Scruggs I drew his last will and testament (see Appendix A for a copy of the subject will) on October 16, 1816. On doing so, he bequeathed to his wife, in her lifetime, use of all his land and personal property. On the death or remarriage of Prudence Scruggs, the land was to be divided among his surviving sons Richard, John, Ellis, Robert, and Jesse. His personal property on the death or remarriage of his widow was to be divided equally among his five sons and five daughters--Elizabeth, Martha, Prudence, Rozamond, and Sarah. Sons Richard and Robert would be executors of his last will and testament.¹³

Richard Scruggs I probably died in October 1819, as his will was recorded in that month. By that year at least two of his sons, Richard II and Robert, had moved to South Carolina and were living near the Cowpens battleground.

In 1820, when the enumerator for the Fourth Census called, Prudence Scruggs was the head of the household. Her son Ellis and his family lived on the adjoining place.¹⁴

11. Ibid.

12. Third Decennial Census, Rutherford County, N. C., National Archives.

13. Richard Scruggs, Last Will and Testament, Rutherford County Will Book C, Clerk of the Probate Court, Rutherford County Courthouse, Rutherfordton, N. C., p. 129.

14. Fourth Decennial Census, Rutherford County, N. C., National Archives.

IV. RICHARD SCRUGGS II: 1769-1855

A. Richard and Robert Scruggs Move to the Cowpens Community

1. Richard Scruggs Acquires 800 Island Creek Acres

In 1790 there were no Scruggses living in the Cowpens community of Spartanburg County, which was included in Capt. Leonard Adcock's militia district. Residing in the community in that year and reported by the enumerator for the First Census were these families: the Will, Solomon, and Matthew Abbetts, Aaron Templeton, William King, William and Marah Murray, William Pool, John Kirklin, George Martin, and the Archibald Harrises. All told in Captain Adcock's district there were 90 free white males 16 and older, 77 white males under 16, 197 white females, 7 slaves, and 4 other persons.

Captain Daniel McClaren, who in January 1803 acquired title to 2,000 acres including the Cowpens battleground, was in charge of the militia district adjoining Adcock's on the east.¹

By 1800 the population of the area was increasing, and the settlers, taking notice of this, were securing title to the land on which they dwelled. Heretofore most had held the land as squatters. Among the settlers counted by the enumerator for the Second Census in that year were these households: William Abbett, George and Edward Williams, James Knox, William Morrow (Murray), and Drury Scruggs.²

Drury Scruggs was probably a brother of Richard Scruggs I. He settled to the north of the battleground, near the state line, and sired a number of children. One of his sons was the Reverend Drury Scruggs, born ca. 1806.³

1. First Decennial Census, Spartanburg County, S. C., National Archives.

2. Second Decennial Census, Spartanburg District, S. C., National Archives.

3. History of State Line Baptist Church, Constituted in 1794, compiled by committee (n.p., n.d.) pp. 64-65. Drury Scruggs was licensed to preach in 1832 and ordained in 1833. He served as pastor of the State Line Baptist Church from 1834 to 1854 and again from 1858 to 1863. In 1864 he moved from South Carolina to Tennessee, where he organized the Concord Baptist Church. The Reverend Drury Scruggs took as his wife Elizabeth Price Wilkins, and to the couple were born 13 children, 9 boys and 4 girls.

During the first decade of the nineteenth century, Richard Scruggs II and his brother Robert bought land near the Cowpens battleground in Spartanburg District. On March 3, 1803, Richard Scruggs for \$80 bought from John Parris his 100-acre plantation on the "east side of long branch of Island Creek."⁴ Three years later, in January 1806, he bought from Joel Blackwell for \$40 the 100 acres Blackwell owned at the upper end of the George Williams Grant.⁵

Purchase of these two tracts gave Richard Scruggs II possession of 200 acres of the George Williams Grant. In 1808 Matthew Abbett, who had been living in the area for more than a score of years, recorded a deed to 350 acres of George Williams's Island Creek Grant.⁶ Richard Scruggs II now owned 200 acres, more or less, on either side of the "long branch of Island Creek," while Abbett held title to "350 acres" off the lower end of the Williams survey of "500 acres." No legal action was filed by either Scruggs or Abbett to resolve this difference, so we may assume that Vardry McBee, in running the metes and bounds of the original Williams survey in August 1796, had measured 550 rather than 500 acres.

The Matthew Abbett deed represented a transaction that had taken place a number of years before, because on March 26, 1804, Abbett had sold "a certain plantation of 290 acres" to Will Dobbins, Richard Scruggs's father-in-law, for \$200. The plantation conveyed was part of the land granted George Williams on January 2, 1797, "lying on both sides of Island Creek." Situated on this property was an "old house and a small improvement." Richard Scruggs II witnessed the deed for his father-in-law.⁷

On April 11, 1808, Abbett sold to Dobbins for \$3 a 60-acre tract on both sides of Island Creek. This was the residue of the "350 acres" purchased by Abbett from George Williams, and it adjoined the 290 acres on which Dobbins and his family were living.⁸

Will Dobbins, by the early 1840s, had passed his 75th birthday. Deciding to retire, he divided and sold his farm: to Richard Scruggs II, his neighbor to the north, he sold 129 acres on both sides of the

4. Spartanburg County Deed Book I, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S. C., pp. 457-58.

5. Spartanburg County Deed Book K, pp. 519-20.

6. Spartanburg County Deed Book H, pp. 20-31.

7. Spartanburg County Deed Book I, pp. 268-69.

8. Spartanburg County Deed Book L, pp. 228-29.

"long branch of Island Creek";⁹ to James H. Ezell for \$10 he sold "the 213-acre" Island Creek plantation on which he lived;¹⁰ and to his son-in-law John Hicks he sold 30 acres on the southeast side of Island Creek.¹¹ Having divided and sold his land, Dobbins moved in with his daughter Elizabeth Hicks and her husband John.¹²

Meanwhile, Richard Scruggs II had purchased from William Gist of Richland District part of the acreage granted Daniel McClaren in 1803. On November 11, 1817, he bought for \$10 a 25-acre tract adjoining the Cowpens battleground. The subject tract was bounded by lands owned by Scruggs, Hainey, Earle, and Williams, and was part of the 100-acre tract purchased by Gist's father from McClaren in 1811.¹³

On January 15, 1827, Gist sold 200 acres, more or less, on the waters of Island Creek to Richard Scruggs II for \$10. This tract included all the Gist land east of the Bulow Brothers' line, held in Daniel McClaren's right, and bounded by property belonging to Richard Scruggs, Williams, Blackwell, Drury Scruggs, Earle, and Wilson Nesbitt.¹⁴

Richard Scruggs by 1842 had acquired more than 530 acres on the "long branch of Island Creek" adjacent to and southeast of the Cowpens battleground. In addition, in 1821 he had acquired 267 acres, the northern five-eighths of the Will Abbett Grant.¹⁵ This was on Island Creek about 2 miles southwest of the battleground, and may have been the site of the cowpens, which gave their name to the battle.

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9. Spartanburg County Deed Book I, pp. 458-59.
 10. Spartanburg County Deed Book Z, pp. 171-73.
 11. Spartanburg County Deed Book CC, pp. 51-52.
 12. Seventh Decennial Census, Spartanburg District, S. C., National Archives.
 13. Spartanburg County Deed Book R, p. 42.
 14. Spartanburg County Deed Book Y, pp. 368-69.
 15. Spartanburg County Deed Book R, pp. 45-46, 358-59.

2. Robert Scruggs Acquires More than 1,500 Acres

Robert Scruggs, Richard's brother, in August 1810 commissioned surveyor Henry Turner to survey for him a 230-acre tract "on the waters of Horse Creek a branch of Broad River," bounded by a line running southwest by Forester's land, southeast by the Bulow Brothers' property, north by Earle's land, and southwest by Drury Scruggs's land. Paralleling but outside the east boundary of the triangular-shaped tract was the road to Island Ford.¹⁶

Fourteen years later, in November 1829, Robert Scruggs hired Joseph Camp to survey for him 793 acres in Spartanburg District, "on the head waters of Suck creek & horse creek." The subject tract, which was on the watershed dividing the Suck and Horse Creek drainages, was northeast of the Cowpens battleground. The 793-acre rectangular tract was bounded on the east by land entered in the names of A. Earle and Wofford, on the north by Camp's property, northwest by Parris's land, west by Drury Scruggs's, and south by land owned by the Bulow Brothers and R. Scruggs. The Coulter's Ford-Island Ford Road crossed the tract from southwest to northeast.

Richard Scruggs II and Robert Martin witnessed the survey and attested to its accuracy.¹⁷

In October 1835 Robert Scruggs, Sr., employed P. Quinn to survey for him a 334-acre tract on "the branches of Buck Creek, waters of Pacolet River." This tract, some distance northwest of the battleground, was bounded on the east by Daniel Cantrell's land, on the south by Mrs. Owens's, on the west by --- Cantrell's, and on the north by William McKinney's and land included in Robert Scruggs's 1810 survey.

Crossing the tract from north to south was the road leading from McKinney's plantation to Coulter's Ford, and from east to west was the Green River (Cowpens) Road.¹⁸

Sixteen months later, in February 1837, Robert Scruggs had P. Quinn survey for him 326 acres on the "branches of Horse Creek

16. Spartanburg County Plat Book B, Spartanburg County Courthouse, Spartanburg, S. C., p. 53.

17. Spartanburg County Plat Book B, p. 355.

18. Spartanburg County Plat Book C, p. 38.

emptying into Broad River." The subject tract was several miles northwest of the battleground, and its north boundary was the state line.¹⁹

B. Richard Scruggs II Builds a Home on Island Creek

Richard Scruggs II moved from Rutherford County to the Cowpens community in the first decade of the nineteenth century. He was probably living on the land he bought from John Parris by March 1804, when he witnessed for his father-in-law the deed to the 290 acres purchased from Matthew Abbett.

In 1811 Richard Scruggs erected a log house, with a large rock chimney, on the south side of the "Long Branch of Island Creek." His new home was about one-half mile southwest of the Green River Road and about the same distance northwest of his father-in-law's home. Here he and his wife, Mary Dobbins Scruggs, lived until their deaths in the mid-1850s.

The Richard Scruggs House stood until about 15 years ago, when it was destroyed by fire. The handsome rock chimney and foundation remain to identify the home site of this community pioneer and his family.

Longtime residents of the community recall the Richard Scruggs home: a log house, with a "built-on kitchen" attached to its north elevation. The huge rock chimney was at the west elevation of the log house. A shed porch was attached to the south elevation of the Richard Scruggs House.

In the early years of this century, Fayette and Daisy Scruggs Martin framed and boxed in the log house, and added a large frame addition to the east elevation. Fronting the addition was a frame shed porch. The addition was used by the Martins as a kitchen and dining room. After Fayette Martin's death, his widow moved into the new section of the house and rented out the old part of the home to the Pritchards. Mrs. Martin and the Pritchards were living in the historic old house when it burned in the early 1950s.²⁰

19. South Carolina State Plat Books, Second Series, vol. 51, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C., p. 328.

20. Personal interviews, Mesdames Rosa Scruggs Garrett, Lillie Martin Scruggs, and Leona Martin Jolley, and Mr. James W. Scruggs with Bearss, Nov. 11 and Dec. 5, 1973; and Mrs. Vaud Jolley with Bearss, Mar. 20, 1974.

One of Mrs. Rosa Scruggs Garrett's nephews, Allen Hina, has in his possession a stone he removed from the rock chimney of the Richard Scruggs House. Etched into the stone is this inscription: "RSD 17 1811." This date for construction of the Richard Scruggs House is corroborated by documentary data found in the Spartanburg County deed books.

C. Richard Scruggs: Citizen

Documents on file at National Archives, the Spartanburg County Courthouse, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and in possession of descendants provide scant information on the life and character of Richard Scruggs II. We know from these documents that he must have been a law-abiding citizen. Records for the Spartanburg Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions contain only one file involving a case in which Richard Scruggs was a principal, and in that case, a civil action, he was the plaintiff. This case involved Wilson Nesbitt.

Nesbitt, a promoter and capitalist, for more than 40 years was intimately associated with the South Carolina iron industry centering in York and Spartanburg districts. In 1809 Daniel McClaren had conveyed to Nesbitt most of the 2,000 acres in his Cowpens grants on and adjacent to the battleground. Nesbitt's Cowpens property bounded Scruggs's land on the northwest and northeast.

On January 12, 1821, Nesbitt signed a note to pay Richard Scruggs \$280 in labor for value received.

When Nesbitt failed to meet his obligation, Scruggs brought suit in the Spartanburg Court of Common Pleas to collect the principal and \$20.08 interest on the note. Scruggs won the case, and the sheriff of Spartanburg District levied on two of Nesbitt's blacks to enforce the court's decision.²¹

Although Richard Scruggs and his family were living in the Cowpens community in 1810, they were not recorded by the enumerator for the Third Decennial Census.²²

21. Richard Scruggs v. Wilson Nesbitt, File 757, Spartanburg Court of Common Pleas, Jan. 12, 1821, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.

22. Third Decennial Census, Spartanburg District, S. C., National Archives.

