

DAVID AMMONS SCOTT

David Ammons Scott, son of Benajah Scott and Zilpha Adams, was born April 10, 1825. At age 26, he married Sarah ("Sallie") Ann Revell, age 23, on July 22, 1851. She was the daughter of John Revell and Asenith Peele, who lived on Juniper Swamp near the boundaries of Wayne and Johnston counties. David and Sallie had ten children:

1. Benajah Scott, Jr. (born April 10, 1852, died August 21, 1920 in Johnston County)
married 1) Mary Ann Elizabeth Adams on April 27, 1876
2) Hesteler ("Estelle") Waddell on December 21, 1887
2. Senith Ann Elinder [Eleander] Scott (born February 5, 1854, died November 22, 1945)
married James Wright Smith on April 2, 1876
3. John Revell Scott (born October 24, 1855, died November 1, 1856)
4. Francis Marion Scott (born March 4, 1857, died December 16, 1859)
5. David Jonathan Scott (born December 10, 1859, died January 14, 1924)
never married
6. Sarah Ann Scott (born December 10, 1859, died December 5, 1904)
never married
7. Mary Ann Scott (born August 20, 1862, died April 27, 1890)
married Nathan Thomas Peele on November 11, 1888
8. Martha Ann Scott (born September 12, 1864, died April 27, 1890)
never married
9. **ROBERT "BOB" E. LEE SCOTT** (born August 15, 1866, died August 8, 1937)
married Emma ("Emily") Holland on January 11, 1888
10. Seth Henderson Scott (born April 3, 1869, died August 20, 1920 Brunswick County, VA)
married 1) Sallie Holland on November 20, 1890. She was a sister of Emma Holland who married Seth's brother "Bob" in 1888;
2) Volina Ferrell on April 4, 1901;
3) Lilly L. Moore.

At the time of the 1850 Census, David, age 24, was a school teacher and lived with his parents in the North Neuse district of Wayne County.¹ In November of that year, he and his father purchased 447 acres in Johnston County from James Hinnant for \$575. The land was on the south side of Contentnea Creek adjoining Andrew Scott, Mathew Peel, James Odum, Josiah Evans, and a corner in the division of lands between Wilson Simpson and Brassell Thomas.² The tract was near the border of Johnston and Wayne counties and would become part of Wilson County when that county was formed in 1855. On September 24, 1852, David bought the land outright from his father and paid him \$282. Mathew V. Peele (David's brother-in-law) and Stanly Kirby witnessed the deed.³

David and Sallie bought 50 acres in Wilson County in 1855 from Nathaniel Moore for \$110. This tract was near Contentnea Creek at the old Wayne and Johnston County line. David's father, Benajah, witnessed the deed and proved it in the Wilson County Court on February 7, 1856.⁴

In the fall of 1856 David's father died. When Benajah's land was divided in 1857, David did not receive a share, since he had already received his share from his father.⁵ He was appointed administrator of his father's estate. On February 4, 1861, David and his brothers, Charles and John, and his brothers-in-law, Isaac Lamm and Mathew V. Peele, obtained a bond for \$2,000 to protect Benajah's youngest children from their father's financial obligations.⁶

The 1860 Census was the first census for Wilson County. There were 6,223 free persons living in the county, of which 526 were farmers. There were 3,496 slaves. David and Sallie were listed in Kirby's District with their children: Benajah (age 6), Senith (age 5), and twins David J. and Sarah A. (age six months). David had one female slave age 10 and one male slave age 7. The agricultural schedule of the census indicated he had 60 acres improved and 343 acres unimproved. The value of the farm was \$4,000 and the value of machinery on the farm was \$30. The value of the family's personal estate was \$2,690.⁷

David bought interest in the lands of his neighbor Wilson Simpson who was deceased. Simpson's 387 acres would be divided among the ten Simpson children after Zena Simpson, Wilson's widow, died. Wilson's son Luke sold his one-tenth interest in his father's land to David in January 1861, and in December of the same year, Wilson's daughter Elizabeth Tedder and her husband, Stephen, sold David their interest. When the land was divided in February 1877, the commissioners granted David two shares for a total of 83¼ acres. Elizabeth Rose, a Simpson daughter, and David sold each of their two tracts to each other in 1880, so that the land David received was next to his own land.

After his mother, Zilphia, died in 1862, David became administrator of her estate. He conducted a sale of her property on June 5, 1862, which included cotton, oats, wheat, peas, garden vegetables, pewter plates, a spinning wheel, a hymn book, a clock, 9 bed quilts, 4 yards of calico, 1 bugle, fishing poles, 2 pairs of spectacles, a brandy still and fixtures, 788 lbs. of bacon, and 2 horses. Another sale on August 28 included a flax wheel, saddles, several pieces of leather, wool, **books**, window curtains, basins, knives, buggy gear, a table, etc.

On November 3, 1864, David and Simon Barnes witnessed Pitts Kirby's will, which was probated in 1876. Pitts was the grandfather of Victoria Kirby Scott, who married Frank W. Scott (David's grandson) in 1909. David was a Justice of the Peace and performed marriage ceremonies. He was administrator of several estates of friends and neighbors, including Ephraim Watson in 1869 and Joseph Raper in 1870. He was also active in the Wilson County Democratic Party, being selected to serve often on committees to select delegates to party conventions or serving himself as a delegate.

By 1869 residents of David Scott's community were meeting at his home for church services.⁸ On September 14, 1869 David and John T. Barnes were named as trustees of the Religious Society of Primitive Baptists in a deed of gift of approximately 1.5 acres from Larry and Elizabeth Moore. The land was located in the line of Wilson Simpson, where his land crosses the Smithfield and Wilson Road. The deed specified that a school house and church were to be built.⁹ The school was known as Scott's School and the Primitive Baptist Church became known as Scott's Church. A portion of the land for the school site, consisting of 1260 [square] yards, was deeded by the Wilson County Board of Education to the trustees of the church on May 21, 1925.¹⁰

David was baptized into the Primitive Baptist faith by Elder John H. Daniel on the fourth Sunday in June 1870.¹¹ He became a deacon of the church and served as clerk.

In November 1881 Sallie's mother's land in Spring Hill Township on Juniper Swamp was divided between herself and her deceased sister Mary's estate. Mary had died in October 1879 of consumption. Sallie and Mary's mother was Asenith Revell, who had died in 1852. Asenith's father, Jesse Peele, had given her the land in 1816. In the 1881 division, the portion that Sallie received was 178¼ acres at the corner of Wayne and Johnston counties adjoining Bennett Barnes.¹² David and Sallie sold this land to David's brother John in December 1884 for \$3,500, who was obligated for five promissory notes at 8% interest due annually until 1889.¹³ Evidently, this sale was not completed because Sallie sold the land to her son Bob in November 1894.

In 1884 David and Sallie purchased 300 acres from A.G. Brooks for \$1,800. This land, known as the Nathaniel Moore tract, had common boundaries with their home place tract.¹⁴ In 1886 they paid Henry Kirby \$30 for two half-acre lots at Boyette. These lots were on both sides of the Wilson and Fayetteville railroad. Henry Kirby was attempting to establish a town or community at Boyette (at today's Kirby's Crossing).

In 1887 David and Sallie purchased 25 acres in Wayne County from Josiah and Henrietta Davis. This land had been lot 7 in the Drew Barnes division and it adjoined the lands of Harris Waddell and Haywood Godwin.

David co-signed a loan for his son Robert in 1888 for \$2,750, borrowed from M. Rountree & Co. at 8% interest. The loan was for two tracts of 200 acres and 52 acres in Crossroads Township that Robert purchased from Herbert Rountree. Robert defaulted on the loan after his father died, and the land was sold at public auction, where Robert's brothers David J. and Seth purchased it.¹⁵

David died on November 5, 1892. A brief paragraph in the *Wilson Advance* indicated he was a "highly esteemed citizen of this county and was well known in Wilson."¹⁶ The obituary that appeared in *Zion's Landmark*, the magazine of the

Primitive Baptist denomination, was written by P. D. Gold, editor and owner of the *Wilson Advance* newspaper. He described David as

“A very industrious energetic man, and was prosperous as a farmer, and was of much benefit to his neighbors as a pattern of industry. Like the ant, he gathered his food in summer. As a neighbor, he was honest and accommodating, and he dealt in his business on the square. He was a very useful member of the church and took much interest therein. By his labor a neat house for the worship of God was built by him, and a church was constituted there called Scotts. He was a deacon and was active and useful in keeping the correspondence in general. As long as he was able, he traveled much to near and distant churches to preserve and continue the correspondence. Hence, he was generally known among the brethren. He was a frank, plain, candid man that loved the peace that is the fruit of righteousness.”¹⁷

Gold related that David had attended church on Saturday and Sunday and was found dead in his bed on Monday. His health had been poor. Gold went on to say, “I never knew him but to love him. Though he was plain and direct in his manner, yet he was as tender as one could well be.”¹⁸ The last statement reminds us of Wayland Dunaway’s description of the Scotch-Irishman: “Though ordinarily undemonstrative, his rough exterior often covered a great tenderness of feeling.”¹⁹

Sallie’s half-brother, John T. Revell, was appointed administrator of David’s estate. Based on a list of items sold at his residence on December 13 and 14 in 1892, David grew tobacco, cotton, corn, peanuts, and sweet potatoes. He had merino and other sheep, hogs, cattle, geese, goats, and beehives. Household items included furniture, a sewing machine, a buggy, 2 umbrellas, and **books**. Sallie purchased a table and tin safe, a sow, 5 geese and 3 beehives, an umbrella and a valise, the contents of the pantry, the cook stove and cooking utensils, a large kettle, a corn sheller, a feather bed and bedstead, and a wash stand.²⁰

David was well educated and had an interest in the law, religion, and history. Among his books sold were a dictionary, an etiquette book, *Frost’s History of the World* and other history books, the 1883 *Code of North Carolina* and other law books, and *Fleetwood’s Life of Christ* and other books on religion.²¹

At his death, David had about 725 acres. His land was divided among his children: Asenith Smith, Mary Ann Peel, David J. Scott, Sallie Ann Scott, and Seth H. Scott. Since Robert had defaulted on the loan that he and his father had taken out together to purchase land, he gave up his part of the estate on November 15, 1894 to pay for the judgment of \$949.40 attached to David’s estate.²² On the same day, Sallie sold Robert her land on Juniper Swamp for \$515.²³

In the 1900 Census, David J. Scott was listed as head of the family. Sallie (his mother), and Sallie A., (his sister) were living at the residence.²⁴ Sallie Ann and David J. never married.

Sallie died on January 5, 1901. She had written her will In January 1898, and it was probated on February 18, 1901. Her half-brother, John T. Revell, and her neighbor Haywood Lamm witnessed the will. Haywood was Sallie's nephew, being the son of David's sister Elinda and her husband, Isaac Lamm. John T. Revell was appointed executor. Sallie left the home tract of 307 acres on Contentnea Creek, known as the Brooks land (formerly the Nathaniel Moore tract) to her children.²⁵ She and David had purchased this tract in 1884. It was near the tracts they acquired from James Hinnant in 1850 and Nathaniel Moore in 1855.

ENDNOTES

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1. 1850 Wayne County Census: North of Neuse District, p. 198, Dwelling # 488, Family # 788.
 2. Johnston County Deed Book W-2:127.
 3. Johnston County Deed Book X-2:27.
 4. Wilson County Deed Book 1:131.
 5. Wilson County Will Book 5:110; Wilson County Deed Book 1:417.
 6. Wilson County Deed Book 1:690.
 7. 1860 Wilson County Census, Kirby's District, p. 39, Dwelling # 231, Family # 231, p. 30; Howell, Joan L. *Wilson County, N.C. Federal Census of 1860*, "Slave Schedule," Wilson, NC: Wilson County Genealogical Society, p. 122; Howell, Joan, *Ibid.*, "Agricultural Schedule," p. 9, line 7.
 8. [Schedule of Elder J. H. Daniel, Primitive Baptist preacher.] *The Plaindealer*, Tuesday, October 12, 1869, [p.3] and Tuesday, October 19, 1869, [p. 3]. The schedules in both issues indicated that Elder Daniel would preach at Black Creek on Wednesday before the fourth Sunday in October, "on Thursday at the residence of D. A. Scott, Esq., on the Smithfield Road, nine miles from Wilson," on Friday at Contentnea, and on Saturday and Sunday at Wilson.
 9. Wilson County Deed Book 3:169.
 10. Wilson County Deed Book 157:350.
 11. David A. Scott Obituary, *Zion's Landmark*, December 1, 1892, n. p.
 12. Wilson County Deed Book 18:118.
 13. Wilson County Deed Book 21:445.
 14. Wilson County Deed Book 21:160.

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15. Wilson County Deed Books 27:218 and 36:198.
 16. *Wilson Advance*, November 10, 1892, p. 3.
 17. David A. Scott Obituary, *Ibid.*, n.p.
 18. *Idem.*
 19. Dunaway, Wayland F. *The Scotch-Irish of Colonial Pennsylvania*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979, p. 182.
 20. "Scott, David" Folder, Wilson County Record of Estates. North Carolina State Archives.
 21. "Scott, David" Folder, *Idem.*
 22. Wilson County Deed Book 53:582.
 23. Wilson County Deed Book 36:492.
 24. 1900 Census, Wilson County, NC, Crossroads Township, p. 88, Dwelling 119, Family # 119, p. 6B.
 25. Wilson County Will Book 3:417.