

The Story of George Washington Scott, 1829-1903



A Family Memoir by Betty Pope Scott Noble '44

The Scott Crest:

A stag trippant Proper, attired and unguled Or



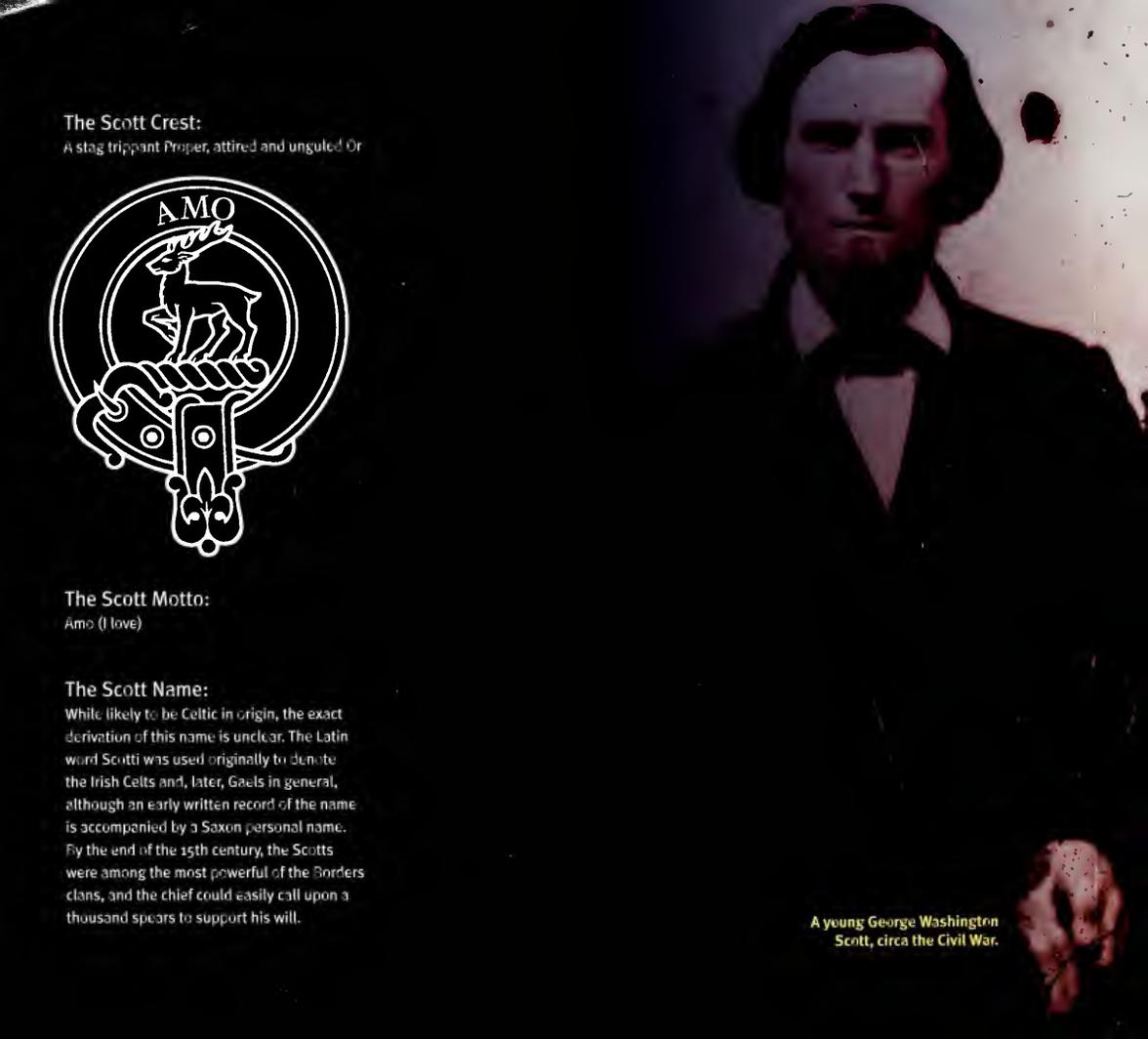
The Scott Motto:

Amo (I love)

The Scott Name:

While likely to be Celtic in origin, the exact derivation of this name is unclear. The Latin word *Scotti* was used originally to denote the Irish Celts and, later, Gaels in general, although an early written record of the name is accompanied by a Saxon personal name.

By the end of the 15th century, the Scotts were among the most powerful of the Borders clans, and the chief could easily call upon a thousand spears to support his will.



A young George Washington Scott, circa the Civil War.

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George Washington Scott
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Dedicated to my father, Milton Candler Scott (1895-2001),
worthy grandson of Col. George Washington Scott



Col. Scott with friends, family (including his wife, Rebekah, on the left) and his household caretaker, Rukow (far right), circa 1890, in front of his beloved home, Gulf Haven, in Clearwater, Florida.



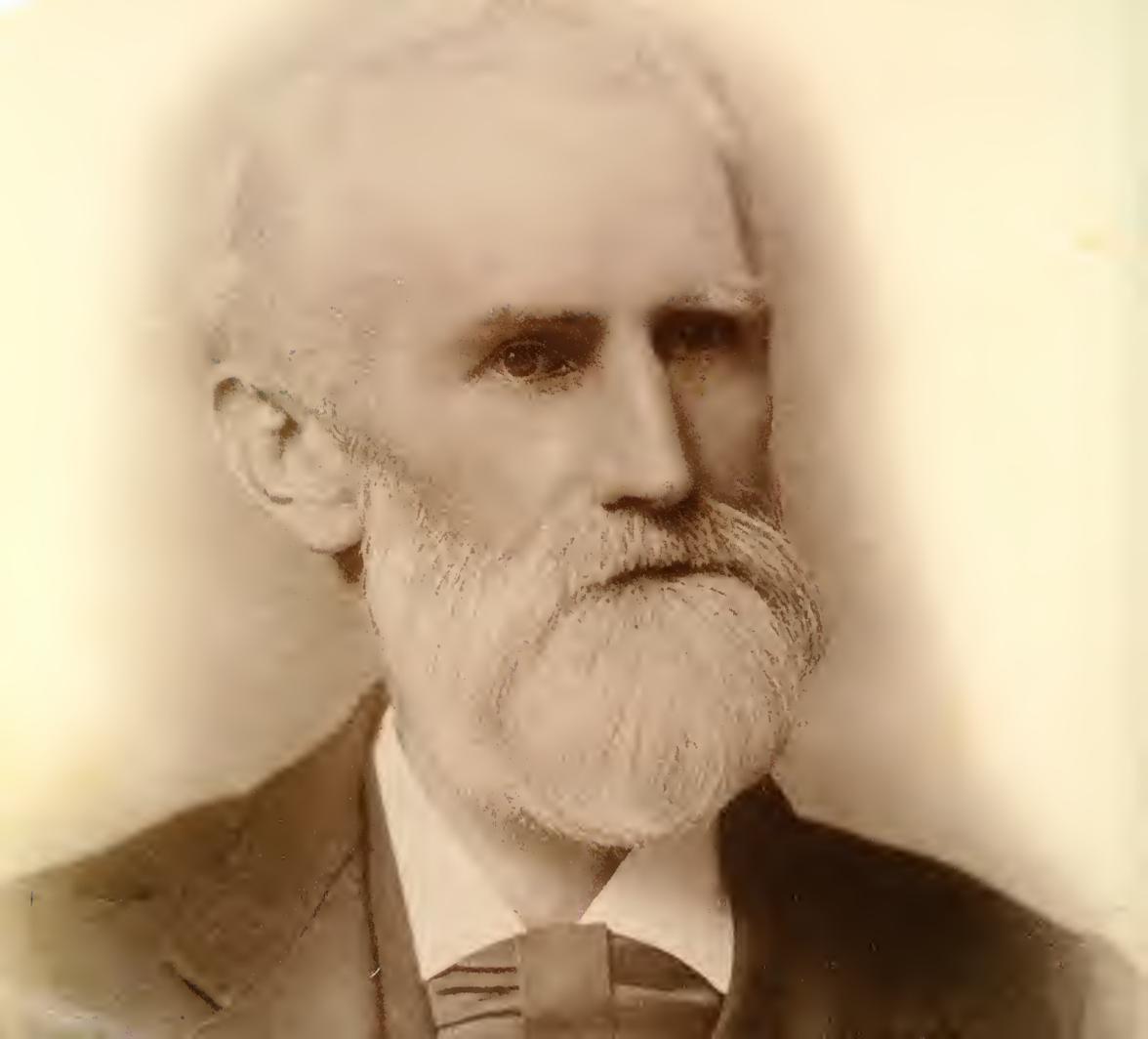
Acknowledgements

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- Christine Cozzens for her thoughtful editing and proofing.
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- Sala Rhodes for her careful management of the College archives and her willingness to help at every step of the process.
- Mary Zimmik of Studio-MZ for design and production.

Agnes Scott College President Mary Brown Bullock '66 and the author, Betty Pope Scott Noble '44, cut a cake that is in the likeness of Agnes Scott Hall (the oldest building on the Agnes Scott College campus and otherwise known as "Main") on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Agnes Irvine Scott's birthday (June 13, 1999). Agnes was Col. Scott's mother for whom the college he founded was named.





George Washington Scott, 1829-1903

by Betty Pope Scott Noble '14

When George Washington Scott made a fortune in industrial adventures in the 1880s, he went to his minister and said, "God has greatly blessed me with wealth, and I do not want it to harden my heart. I want to build a school for the education of young women."

This was the beginning of Agnes Scott College, a college for women, which was named for Scott's mother. At this time no great importance was attached to the education of women. Why did Scott say he did not want money to harden his heart? Why did he want to establish a school to educate young women? Scott's amazing life provides some answers to these questions.

As a youth and in ill health, Scott left his northern home after his father died, traveling south in an effort to improve his health and to seek his fortune. He began his journey by peddling jewelry to pay for his expenses. Scott developed a plantation in Florida, cast his lot with the Confederate States in the Civil War, became a colonel, fought in some decisive battles, was elected governor of Florida during the Reconstruction period and survived the yellow fever epidemic in which his brother died. While Scott was living in Savannah, Georgia, his partner in a joint investment firm absconded with the company's money. As a result of this, Scott was left bankrupt. But in time, he paid back every cent with interest to the investors who had lost their money. In Decatur and Atlanta Scott developed the valuable real estate he had purchased, establishing a very successful fertilizer business and building and putting into operation a textile mill as well as constructing the Century Building. However, his greatest accomplishment was the founding of Agnes Scott College in Decatur.



Image of old postcard of Alexandria, Pennsylvania — where George Washington Scott was born

The Scots-Irish

After centuries of intermittent effort, the English completed their conquest of Ireland in the early 1600s. In order to establish English influence and rule in that solidly Catholic country, King James I (a Scot) confiscated the lands of native Irish Catholics and offered them to English and Scottish Protestants as inducements to settle there, particularly in the north in the province of Ulster. Lured by this promise of free land, large numbers of Scottish Presbyterians moved to Ireland and became "Scots-Irish." In County Down, where Agnes Irvine was born, the Scots-Irish were the dominant group.

Further hostility between native Catholics and the more recently arrived Protestants developed during the English Civil War (1640-1649), when the Irish rose against their Protestant landlords; the revolt was crushed by Oliver Cromwell and his army with massacres at Wexford and Drogheda. When the Dutch Protestant William of Orange ascended the English throne in 1690, the Irish rose in support of the deposed Catholic king, James II. William's army defeated the Irish forces at the Battle of the Boyne in July, a victory still celebrated today by Protestant "Orangemen." Following the victory, the enactment of discriminatory laws to punish the Catholics deepened the division between the two groups.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Scots-Irish formed less than 10 percent of the total population of Ireland. They lived primarily in Ulster. Though faring better than the native Catholics, the Scots-Irish suffered discrimination by the dominant Anglican group, which controlled the parliaments in Dublin and London. In addition to these political conditions, like all Irish the Scots-Irish faced the exigencies of an increasingly densely populated country and a failing economy. Many of them emigrated to North America, especially to settlements in Virginia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

— Contributed by Michael Brown

Agnes Irvine Scott, George Washington Scott's mother



How did he accomplish all this? What was his motivation, and what were the influences that molded such a character?

This is the story of George Washington Scott's accomplishments and of his struggles. Scott came through many hard trials, but eventually became a man whose life and generosity blessed many people during his lifetime and continue to bless the lives of hundreds of young women.

The story of George Washington Scott began on February 22, 1829, when he was born in the small town of Alexandria, Pennsylvania. This little town is set amid low rolling hills and is especially lovely in the fall of the year when the maple trees are in full color. The sparkling waters of the Juniata River run through the town and flow directly behind the homes of some of the early settlers. ¹ John and Agnes Irvine Scott, Scott's parents, both of Irish descent, lived in a house which bordered the river where many iron factories flourished. ²

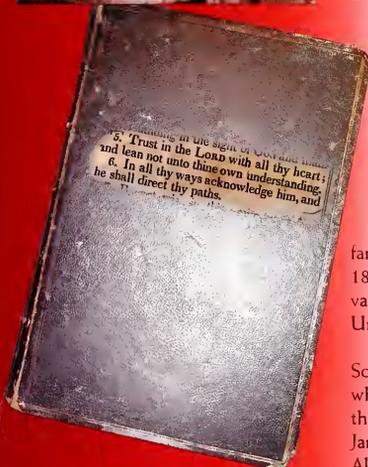
John Scott, Scott's father, had five living children when, at the age of 37, he married Agnes Irvine, a little more than a year after the death of his first wife, Sarah. Agnes was 22 at the time of her marriage to John with whom she had seven children of her own, making in time a family of 12 children. ² It is understandable that John Scott chose a young, strong Irish girl who could care for his large household.

George Washington Scott, the fourth child of this marriage, was born into a home of some financial means. His father, John Scott, a strong Presbyterian, was a respected, prosperous gentleman, who owned a shoe manufacturing and a leather tanning business as well as a large farm. John Scott was a major in the War of 1812 and later served in both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives. ³

Scott's boyhood was spent in Alexandria where he received his education along with the siblings in his family — Susan, John, James Irvine, William, Mary Irvine and Alfred. ² Since James and William died at an early age, Scott seemed closer in relationship to John, his older brother, than to the other siblings



As a very young boy in Pennsylvania, George Washington Scott wore this sailor suit, hand-made by his mother, Agnes, who also hand-wove the material.



An image of a rare and recent find — Agnes Irvine Scott's Bible, which includes an inset of her favorite passage

The greatest influence in Scott's home was the strong Christian character and teaching of his mother, Agnes Irvine Scott, who had come with her mother, Mary Stitt, from Northern Ireland to Alexandria in 1816. Economics and personal tragedies had driven Mary Stitt and Agnes to settle with their relatives.

Agnes's Christian commitment seems to have been the driving force of her life, which so strongly influenced her family. The admonition from Proverbs 3:5,6 found written in her own hand in her Bible was a reflection of her life and served as a guide to her children as well as to Agnes's descendants. The verse reads:

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Habits of prayer, Bible reading, Christian service and regular attendance at the Presbyterian church were an integral part of the home in which George Washington Scott grew up.³ This strong Christian commitment became the very core of Scott's being, and he held to it during both the successful and the discouraging times.

It is told that a young Scott and his neighbor, Rebekah Bucher (who would later become his wife), were both in attendance at a birthday party. The temptation to take off their shoes and wade in the cool waters of the Juniata River was more than the young boys at the party could resist. Rebekah expressed to Scott her desire to do as the boys had done. Scott discouraged Rebekah, feeling that it was improper for a young girl dressed for a party to take off her shoes and stockings and wade with the boys in the river. However, Scott assured her that after the party he would bring her back to the river's edge so that she might wade in the river to her "heart's content."⁴

At about the age of 20 while Scott was working on his father's large farm near the family home, he began, from time to time, to feel ill with discomfort in his throat and chest. This problem continued until, at the age of 21, it was determined that he should leave the North and the harsh winter weather of Pennsylvania and travel south to a warmer climate in an effort to improve his health.³

Unfortunately, just 12 days prior to Scott's departure for his journey south, his father, John Scott, died at the age of 66.³ Agnes Scott, having already lost two young sons, naturally was greatly bereaved at the time of her husband's death. Nevertheless, Agnes was determined that her son continue with his plan to travel south.

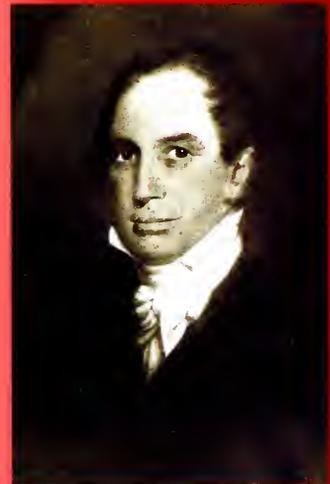
After packing the jewelry that Scott had purchased to sell to defray his expenses while on his Southern journey, he boarded a steam vessel en route from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

George Washington Scott's Life and Times

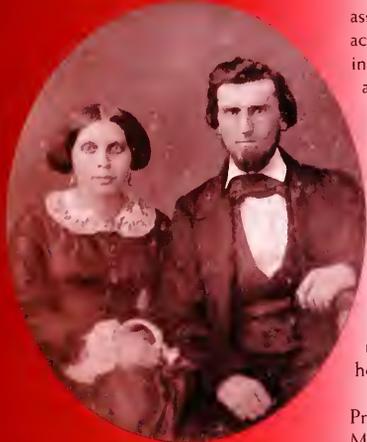
1829

Agnes Irvine Scott (married to John Scott in 1821) gives birth to George Washington Scott, future founder of Agnes Scott College.

John Scott Sr., George Washington Scott's father



Wedding picture of George Washington Scott and his wife, Rebekah Bucher Scott



1844

In the United States, riots break out between native-born Protestant workers and Irish Catholic immigrant workers in Philadelphia.

1845-1852

In Ireland, the potato blight destroys most of the annual crop, leading to the Great Famine.

1845-1855

1.8 million Irish immigrants arrive in North America.

to Charleston, South Carolina. Scott writes concerning his feelings, "Here I am amongst strangers, that there not being one person on board that I have ever seen before. However, it was not long until I became pretty familiar with several among the numbers."⁵ Scott's friendliness and warmth of spirit continued to be evident in his relationships with people he associated with in the 45 cities he visited in the Southern states. While enjoying new acquaintances, Scott also observed the cultivation of cotton, sugar cane, rice and fruit trees in the agricultural areas. In Greensboro, Georgia, he became interested in a cotton factory, an interest he would pursue in later years.⁵

Scott settled in 1851 in Quincy, Florida, where he lived for about a year in Mr. Bradwell's Boarding House for \$17 a month. In spite of the warmer climate, Scott continued to have discomfort in his throat and chest, and it was during these times that he missed his family and friends in Pennsylvania. At one such time Scott exclaimed in his diary, "Oh how I would like to see my mother!"

Early in Scott's stay of about a year in Quincy he became friends with two medical doctors — Dr. Davison and his son Dr. Davison Jr., with whom he talked at length about his health problem. The prescription that the elder doctor gave Scott for his condition did not seem to alleviate his problem. However, Scott continued to exercise in hopes of helping his physical condition, which he did not allow to hinder his activities.

Prior to Scott's leaving Quincy he made a month-long trip through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee to observe the plantations of these Southern states. Scott was entertained by friends at the time of his departure to Tallahassee, Florida, and records in his diary "I feel very sorry to leave all these people. They have been so kind to me."⁵

Soon after Scott's arrival in Tallahassee, he began purchasing land for his plantation, and over a period of approximately 10 years, he bought more than 1,408 acres of land, a very large estate.⁶ This property adjoined the present day Agricultural and Mechanical College.⁷ A section of this property was called "Scott's Ditch," where Scott experimented in the uses of various fertilizers in the cultivation of his crops. In one year Scott harvested 200 bales of cotton. He also had a successful mercantile business in Tallahassee.⁷

After having settled in Tallahassee on his plantation, Scott, apparently having regained his health, returned in 1854 to Pennsylvania to Bucher's Mill near Chambersburg to claim as his bride, Rebekah Poole Bucher, his childhood sweetheart. Over the ensuing years, one son, George Bucher, and four daughters, Annie, Mary ("Mamie"), Nellie and Bessie, were born to Scott and his wife.⁷ While the children were still young, Rebekah took all of them for a family visit back to her home in Pennsylvania. Scott, in Tallahassee, having received an unfavorable report from Rebekah concerning the children's behavior, wrote to his wife:

I am very sorry to learn that the children are not good and give you so much trouble I am afraid they have been indulged so much that it will be hard to get them in the way they should go I am getting very anxious to see you, my dear little wife, and long to be with you and the dear children. I am so lonely without you. ⁸

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Scott, although having been born in a Northern state, determined to "cast his lot" in active support of the South, because he felt that the cause of the Southern states was right. However, it was understood that Northerners living in the South were not required to take up arms against either side. ⁷

Scott undoubtedly had managed successfully the operation of his large plantation with the assistance of hired workmen until the onset of the Civil War. However, family records indicate that on October 17, 1862, Scott bought eight slaves in Tallahassee for the sum of \$500. Records also indicate that on December 30, 1862, for \$1,000, Scott purchased two more slaves to help with the plantation work while he was serving in the Civil War. ⁹

As a colonel in the calvary of the Confederate Army, Scott's responsibility was to keep the Federal forces from advancing deeper into middle Florida. Typically, Scott was outnumbered by these forces. In a letter to Rebekah he described his cavalry's effort to advance to Middleburg, Florida: "It rained on us every day as we were marching through water at least one third of the way and had several creeks to cross where our horses



Col. Scott saved the money paid to him by the Confederate Army in his last six months as an officer.



1850

John Scott dies at the age of 66.

PEOPLE'S TICKET.

BY TICKET
COL. GEO. W. SCOTT.
—AND—
BY TICKET
JAMES W. HALL.
—AND—
BY TICKET
HON. JOHN FRIEND.
—AND—

From the Florida, April 14

Importance of the Election.

It is one of the great powers that will be lodged in the hands of the next Convention—that he will have the appointments of every officer in the State, with the exception of Constable, the appointing devolves to one of the most important that has ever been submitted on the people of Florida.

We, the Convention—we, the real people of the State, who are identified with its interests and suffer as every one that can bind his lot to the land of his birth or adoption, have nominated as our candidate for Governor, COL. GEORGE W. SCOTT, one who, although not born among us, has been living in the State for a period of nearly twenty years, has shown that he has our interests at heart as thoroughly as any one could do by fighting for the lost cause throughout the whole of that disastrous and bloody struggle—that his progress—his family—his all interests, and a one of ourselves, in every sense of the word, born of our blood, and flesh of our flesh, as were.

On the other hand, one wing of the Republican party—the strange party—are nominated, as their candidate for that important office, HAZARD REED, who is an entire stranger to us and our State, who enters among us our shores, who has nothing in common with us, and who is not identified with us and our future in any shape or measure.

THE BILLINGS—being the extreme Radical wing of the numerous Republican party, who have as they do a responsible, have brought forward as their candidate for the same responsible office one SAM WALKER, who also is an entire stranger to us, and who, like HAZARD REED, came to us for the sole purpose of entering by getting a lucrative office.

Such, fellow citizens, are the men who have been placed before us as candidates for that high and important office of Governor.

The struggle will be a singular one, which will make it all the more so in our favor.

Give us the real people of the State, because for one moment, as to which of them we will vote? Not ourselves, not the mind, and will vote for our own man—for him who is one of ourselves, the gallant, the high minded and esteemed COLONEL GEORGE W. SCOTT.

With such a man in the occupancy of the gubernatorial chair we will have in our power to keep off the scalawags and stragglers, and fill our offices, and their matter is legion, with men from among ourselves, good and true men, who will do their best to promote the best interest and prosperity of our beloved State.

Remember that the election of Governor is involved that of every other officer in the State, from Justice of the Peace, County Commissioner, &c., up to Judges of the Supreme Court, and that the tenure of most of these offices will be for life. How important then, that good and true men, who are not stragglers to us, should fill all these offices.

Remember on the other hand, that should either of the Republican candidates be elected, they will take good care to fill all these offices with men of their own stamp, stragglers and scalawags, and our own beautiful State will be like a land given over to the devouring locusts.

Remember all shams, and like gilliam men, one and all, come to other polls and vote for our own noble and gallant SCOTT, and, on doing so, you will vote for the best interest of ourselves and your beloved land of Florida.

⚔ Remember, that our ballot boxes are to be kept—open for the votes on the question of Ratifying the Constitution, the other for votes on the election of State and County officers, and of the member to Congress. Therefore, you must have our dissent in all.

Col. Scott's home in Decatur, Georgia



Rebekah Bucher Scott, survived her husband by many years, shown here in front of her home, Gulf Haven, in Clearwater, Florida



1854

Mary Stitt Irvine Stitt, George Washington Scott's grandmother, dies at the age of 87.

Now a family heirloom worn today by great great grandson and trustee of Agnes Scott College, James Phillips Noble Jr., these rufflinks were treasured by Col. Scott.



had to swim. Of course, we were wet all the time. I have the rheumatism terribly and had to be lifted on my horse, but I stick it out though I suffer greatly."¹⁰

After the Confederate victory in the hard-fought battle of Olustee to which Scott's cavalry contributed, the carnage was great. Scott became concerned for his family's safety as he realized the strength of the Federal forces. Scott wrote to Rebekah giving her detailed instructions as to how she should prepare herself and the household for a 100-mile flight into Georgia, should it be necessary.¹¹ However, Rebekah remained on the plantation in spite of the danger from the Federal troops, and she managed the plantation until Scott returned.

As the Federal troops advanced, Scott helped choose the site for the Battle of Natural Bridge, which was in defense of Tallahassee, the capital of Florida. Scott's battalion was in the thick of the battle in which Confederate forces, the militia and the volunteers turned back a threatened assault. Scott became a hero, and on returning to Tallahassee, he was presented with a horse by a prominent Leon County planter.¹¹ Professor of history at Western Kentucky University Marion Lucas wrote of the historical battle, "It appeared that it was mainly owing to the energetic and stubborn resistance of Colonel G. W. Scott with his small cavalry that the victory was won."¹²

When the Civil War ended in 1865, apparently Scott intended to continue the plantation life in Tallahassee, for during 1865 and 1866 he purchased 440 additional acres to add to his already large plantation.⁶ While still in Florida in 1868, Scott ran on the Democratic ticket for Governor of Florida. He received an overwhelming vote for the position, but was immediately ruled out by the carpetbagger regime then in power in Florida. Scott had not wanted to be a candidate and was relieved at the solution.¹³ As the plantation life began to diminish in the South, the Scott household moved in 1870 to Savannah, Georgia, where Scott was engaged in a very successful cotton factory and commission business called Kirksey and Scott. In this business Scott made a large fortune. The business soon failed, however, and he became bankrupt because of the dishonesty of his partner, who confiscated the company's assets in this business venture.^{13 & 4}

The Scott family moved to Decatur, Georgia, in 1877 with a small sum of money advanced by friends and business associates in Savannah who had confidence in Scott's integrity and ability. They believed he would succeed again as he had in the past.³ Over a period of time, without condemning his partner in business for the bankruptcy and without any help from this man, Scott was able to pay back on his own, with interest, the investors in the Kirksey and Scott Company.⁴

No doubt this was an extremely difficult time for Scott, and to add to his pain, his brother Alfred Scott, who had also fought in the Civil War, died of yellow fever while

living in Savannah. Perhaps the yellow fever epidemic in Savannah added to the Scott family's decision to leave Savannah in 1877 and move to Decatur. ⁴

At the time of the departure, the family was still in financial difficulty. Scott, in order to support his family, went through the nearby farms in Decatur threshing wheat for the farmers. Rebekah operated a boarding house in Decatur to help supplement the family's income. ⁴

Not long after the Scott family's move, Scott began to reap abundant wealth through his varied and very prosperous business enterprises. While on the plantation in Tallahassee, Scott had experimented successfully with the making of fertilizer from crushed phosphate rock. Having previously purchased land around Peace River near Tampa, and with the help of scientists, Scott's land began to yield very large beds of phosphate rock from which fertilizer was made. Scott, having already established the George W. Scott Phosphate and Fertilizer Company in Atlanta, was able to add tremendously to his own production of fertilizer through his discovery of phosphate on his Florida coastal lands. The *Atlanta Constitution* commented on Scott and his discovery: "Truly he has been a benefactor to both Georgia and Florida. His prosperity [the phosphate discovery] has come legitimately, and in being blessed himself, he has aided in helping others. In Atlanta and vicinity there is no man who enjoys to a greater extent the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens." ¹⁴ What an enormous blessing the fertilizer business proved to be for one who had so recently and undeservedly been forced into bankruptcy!

A while after the sale of the fertilizer plant, another of Scott's successful ventures was the building of the Century Building in Atlanta, an office rental building today often referred to as the Flat Iron Building because of its shape. This profitable enterprise was part of Scott's successful investment in valuable real estate around Atlanta and Decatur. ⁴ In 1903 the Scottdale Textile



1856-1929

3.35 million Irish immigrants arrive in North America.

1861-1865

In the United States, the Civil War breaks out, temporarily dividing the Scott family.

1865-1877

In the United States during the Reconstruction Era, Southerners attempt to rebuild their society.

1870

In Ireland, the Home Rule movement is founded.

1877

Agnes Irvine Scott dies in October. She is buried in Alexandria. Col. George Washington Scott moves from Florida to Decatur, Georgia.

Col. George Washington Scott with his wife on the right and a wide assortment of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

The graves of Scott and his wife, Rebekah, lie in the Decatur Cemetery in Georgia.



Mill was built and operated by Scott in Scottdale, Georgia. This successful venture proved to be beneficial to the Scott family in succeeding generations. ⁴

From Scott's real estate investment in Decatur, he gave the land on Sycamore Street near his own home for the erection of the Decatur Presbyterian Church and the church manse. In this church, Scott served as a ruling elder for many years.

Another real estate venture of Scott's, which proved to be very enjoyable and beneficial for his entire family, was the building of Gulf Haven, the large and beautiful home located on the gulf of Clearwater, Florida. ⁴ Perhaps Scott and Rebekah's personal happiness reached its zenith as they both, in their later years, were able to observe the extended family's enjoyment of being together at lovely Gulf Haven.

Scott's greatest contribution and achievement began in 1889 with the founding of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, a college he named in memory and in honor of his mother, Agnes Irvine Scott. Agnes Scott College had its early beginning as Decatur Female Seminary. Scott subscribed 40 percent of the stock investment of \$5,000, which was to pay the expenses of the first school year. ¹⁵ After traveling extensively through the eastern United States to see the various educational buildings, Scott planned and paid for the erection of the first building, Agnes Scott Hall (now popularly called Main), at a cost of \$112,500. At the time of the erection of Agnes Scott Hall, it was the best educational building existing in Georgia. It was thoroughly furnished to meet the needs of the students.

1889

Col. Scott becomes one of the founders of the Decatur Female Seminary.

Scott paid the deficit of the school from 1889 until his death in 1903. Also, Scott helped to formulate the Agnes Scott Ideal in the school's early years, and he also joined in The Agnes Scott Prayer Covenant, which was started in 1897. These two documents represent Scott as a Christian at his best. ¹³

1890-1891

Col. Scott offers to finance a building for the Decatur Female Seminary, and the school is renamed Agnes Scott Institute.

Dr. Frank H. Gaines, the first president of Agnes Scott College, writes of Scott's comment to him concerning prospective students: "I don't want any girl in Decatur, Georgia, who is qualified to study in our school to be turned away on account of lack of money. Take those students who are worthy and charge the bill to me." ¹³

Scott gave to Agnes Scott a total of \$175,000. The full effect of his gift to the school was great according to Gaines. "But he did much more than give his money. He gave himself, his prayers, his interest, his counsel and his constant support. He was a tower of strength to the president. With all his power, influence and ability, he stood squarely behind the school Truly Col. Scott's leadership, support and generosity made Agnes Scott College possible." ¹⁵

Scott's health began to decline in the early 1900s. He spent some time at a health resort at

Lake Toxaway in North Carolina. Later, Scott was taken to the Elkin-Cooper Sanitarium in Atlanta, where he could be cared for by his relative, Dr. Hunter Cooper. As his condition grew worse, Scott was moved to a hospital in Atlanta, where he died on October 3, 1903, at the age of 74. ⁴

At the close of such a worthy life as that of Col. George Washington Scott, these words of his close friend, Gaines, seem appropriate: "Col. Scott was easily the first citizen of Decatur, and no man stood higher in Atlanta or in the State (of Georgia) than he. He was a man of rare ability, of the highest Christian character, of excellent judgment, of broad vision, of great generosity and withal modest and quiet. All these things made him a leader. All honor to this noble, far-seeing, able, Christian gentleman!" ¹⁵

Author's Notes

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- (3) Alston, Wallace M., "The Significance of the Life of George Washington Scott," booklet
- (4) Oral history of Scott family
- (5) Scott, George Washington, "Diary," Oct. 4, 1850-Feb. 20, 1851
- (6) Records of Deeds, Leon County Court House, Tallahassee, Florida (date: Jan. 1, 1856 to Oct. 2, 1866)
- (7) Written family history, Tallahassee, Florida, 1851-1870
- (8) Scott, George Washington, letter to Rebekah Bucher Scott, May 7, 1866
- (9) Receipts of Sale in Tallahassee, Florida, Oct. 17, 1862 and Dec. 30, 1862
- (10) Scott, George Washington, letter to Rebekah Bucher Scott, Camp Jackson, Florida, Aug. 14, 1864
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- (13) McCain, Dr. James Ross, Colonel George W. Scott speech, Oct. 12, 1952
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1893

In Britain, Gladstone's second attempt to pass a Home Rule bill for Ireland passes in the House of Commons but fails in the House of Lords. The stage is set for another era of rebellion in Ireland.

1903

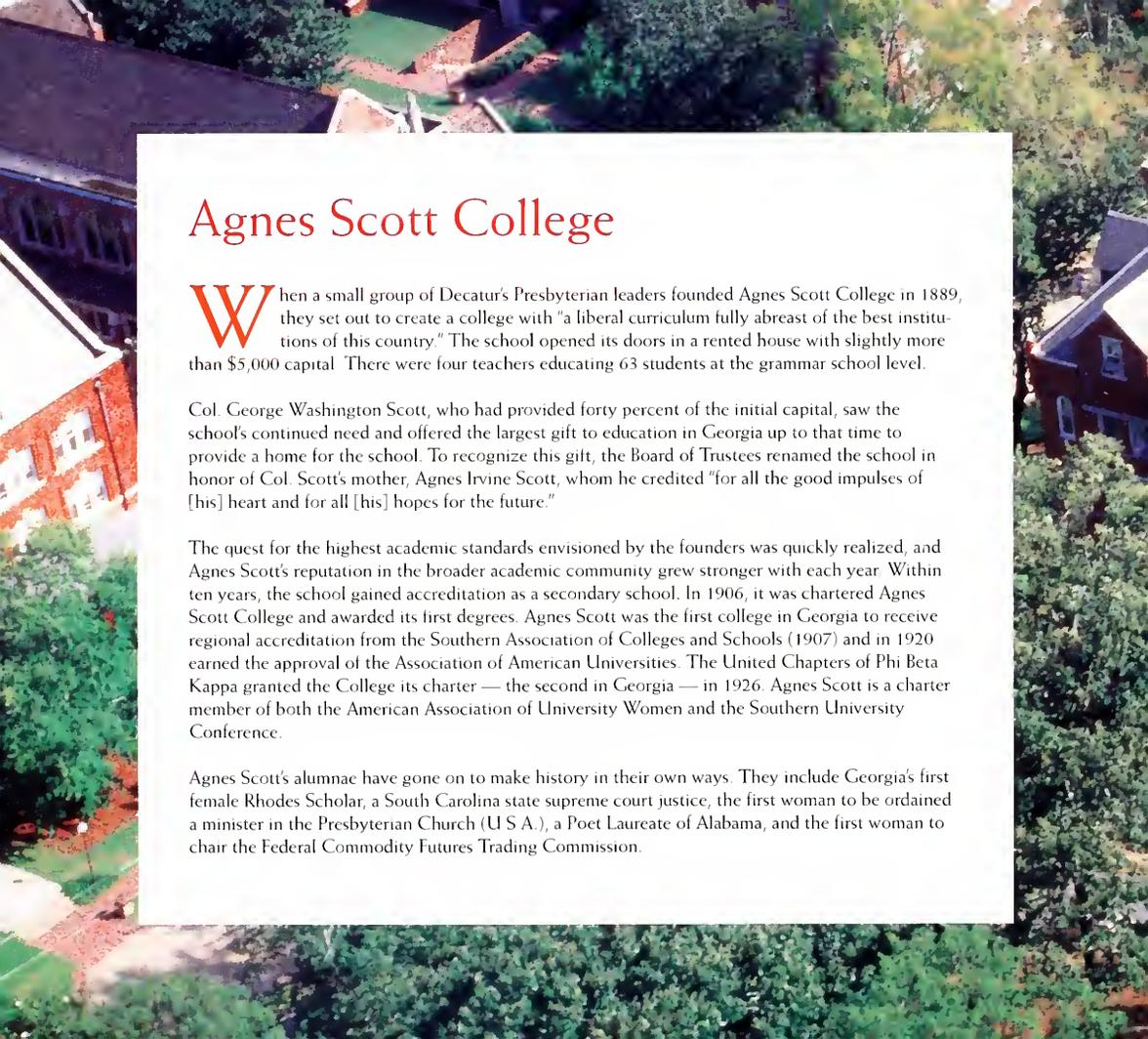
Colonel George Washington Scott dies. He is buried in Decatur.

1906

Agnes Scott Institute renamed Agnes Scott College.

The extended family of Col. George Washington Scott gathered in Alexandria, Pennsylvania in 1989 to place a centennial marker on the grave of Agnes Irvine Scott



An aerial photograph of the Agnes Scott College campus, showing a large brick building on the left, a green lawn in the center, and a smaller brick building on the right, all surrounded by lush green trees. A white rectangular text box is centered over the image.

Agnes Scott College

When a small group of Decatur's Presbyterian leaders founded Agnes Scott College in 1889, they set out to create a college with "a liberal curriculum fully abreast of the best institutions of this country." The school opened its doors in a rented house with slightly more than \$5,000 capital. There were four teachers educating 63 students at the grammar school level.

Col. George Washington Scott, who had provided forty percent of the initial capital, saw the school's continued need and offered the largest gift to education in Georgia up to that time to provide a home for the school. To recognize this gift, the Board of Trustees renamed the school in honor of Col. Scott's mother, Agnes Irvine Scott, whom he credited "for all the good impulses of [his] heart and for all [his] hopes for the future."

The quest for the highest academic standards envisioned by the founders was quickly realized, and Agnes Scott's reputation in the broader academic community grew stronger with each year. Within ten years, the school gained accreditation as a secondary school. In 1906, it was chartered Agnes Scott College and awarded its first degrees. Agnes Scott was the first college in Georgia to receive regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1907) and in 1920 earned the approval of the Association of American Universities. The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa granted the College its charter — the second in Georgia — in 1926. Agnes Scott is a charter member of both the American Association of University Women and the Southern University Conference.

Agnes Scott's alumnae have gone on to make history in their own ways. They include Georgia's first female Rhodes Scholar, a South Carolina state supreme court justice, the first woman to be ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a Poet Laureate of Alabama, and the first woman to chair the Federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission.



Scott Family Members of the Agnes Scott College Board of Trustees (1889-2002)

George Washington Scott (1889-1903)

Charles Murphey Candler (1889-1935)

George Bucher Scott (1896-1920)

Milton A. Candler (1896-1909)

James Julius Scott (1920-1976)

Bessie Scott Harnon, Institute (1917-1937)

George Scott Candler (1924-1972)

Allie Candler Guy '13 (1929-1930)

Hansford Sams Jr. (1970-1984)

George Scott Candler Jr. (1972-1992)

Betty Pope Scott Noble '44 (1984-1994)

James Wallace Daniel (1992-present)

Clark E. Candler (1992-present)

James Phillips Noble Jr. (2001-present)



Scott family members gather on June 13, 1999 for the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Agnes Irvine Scott (in portrait at far right), mother of George Washington Scott and namesake of Agnes Scott College.

BACK ROW:

(left to right)

James Wallace Daniel

Adelaide Sams Propst

David Wilkinson

Clark E. Candler Jr.

James Phillips Noble Jr.

Hansford Sams Jr.

Nancy Scott

David Scott

Scott Ward

Henderson Ward

Amy Gough

Mark McLeod

B.J. Candler

MIDDLE ROW:

(left to right)

Agnes Milton Scott

Betty Sams Daniel

Betty Scott Noble

Terry Candler

Lisa Ward

Rebekah Candler Ward

FRONT ROW:

(left to right)

Milton Candler Scott

(deceased August 2001)

Betty Pope Scott Noble '44

The Author

James Phillips Noble Jr., who is a political consultant from Charleston, South Carolina, is the author's son and a great-great grandson of Col. Scott and presently serves on the Agnes Scott College Board of Trustees.



The author, Betty Pope Scott Noble '44, is pictured next to a portrait of her great-grandfather, George Washington Scott.

Betty Pope Scott Noble, who was born in Decatur, Georgia, is the great-granddaughter of Col. George Washington Scott and the great-great-granddaughter of Agnes Irvine Scott. She is a 1944 graduate of Agnes Scott College, the wife of Dr. J. Phillips Noble, a Presbyterian minister, and the mother of a daughter and two sons. She served on the Board of Trustees of Agnes Scott College from 1984 to 1994. Her daughter, Dr. Betty Scott Noble, who is also a graduate of Agnes Scott College, teaches at the College and her son James Phillips Noble Jr. is a member of the Board of Trustees of Agnes Scott College. Her son Milton Scott Noble died from leukemia in 1968.

In 1999 she wrote, "The Story of Agnes Irvine Scott, 1799-1877" — a memoir of the person for whom Agnes Scott College is named.



Betty Scott Noble, right at age four, the author's daughter and great-great granddaughter of Col. George Washington Scott, stands before his home, Gulf Haven. Betty, left, now with a Ph.D. in psychology, enjoys her private practice and teaching at Agnes Scott College.



The Scott Tartans

There is no clearer symbol of Scottish identity than that of the tartan. The popularity of tartan fabric guarantees its use in a variety of applications, but, appealing as it may be, over centuries its underlying significance is to indicate clan—or family—allegiance.

All four of the Scott family tartans are shown in this book. The tartan on the far right, on the front cover, is the Scott Red tartan. Scott Red and the Scott Green tartan (shown on this page, far left) are the modern tartans whose strong, vivid colors are made possible by today's chemical dyes. The other Scott family tartans are the Scott Green W, or weathered, (in center) and the Scott Green A, or ancient, tartans (at right on this page). These ancient colors duplicate the shades produced by weavers when dyes were exclusively made from vegetables, herbs and berries. Weathered and ancient, or muted, colors approximate the appearance of tartan cloth dyed with the organic dyes and faded by years of Highland weather.



AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
THE WORLD FOR WOMEN

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