

Genealogy

Samuel Scott of Martinsville

*Ruby T. Scott**

“So rapidly does time send all our names into oblivion, excepting a very few, so thoroughly are we forgotten in the whirl of the activities of life;” thus in 1915, Noah J. Major wrote concerning the founders of Martinsville, Indiana.¹

And yet, this is not always true. Even in a virgin country where records are few a surprising number of names find “lodgment in the stream of time”—in family papers, in old county histories, and in county courthouse records. And when the leads furnished by tradition have been sifted, checked, and rechecked, when the facts from many sources have been gathered and organized, the picture begins to emerge. Notes from records in one county illuminate the others from sources in another state. A puzzling bit faithfully noted down is sometimes the answer to a question not yet asked. Even so simple a device as organizing known facts into a careful chronology will often reveal evidence of acceptable veracity, as a lightning flash may sometimes reveal unfamiliar country and show the way a traveler must go.

After a time the man sought emerges and the trails he followed become clear. One can see, at last, the man “in his habit as he lived”—perhaps as clearly as he was known to many of his contemporaries. After all, do not contemporaries often see each other through a glass darkly, even though they are face to face?

The Scott family left Kentucky for Indiana Territory about 1815. Of English descent, the father, Samuel Scott, Sr., had come to Kentucky County, Virginia, shortly before that hard-won territory became a state. In that section of Mason County, which in 1796 was given the name of Fleming County, he had married, and between about 1790 and 1800

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¹ Logan Esarey (ed.), “The Pioneers of Morgan County: Memoirs of Noah J. Major,” *Indiana Historical Society Publications* (Indianapolis, 1895- , V (1915), 247.

had four children, two sons and two daughters. The children's mother died, probably before they left Kentucky. The two sons were William, born about 1791, and Samuel Scott, Jr. born in 1793. The daughters were Rebecca and Elizabeth born about 1795 and 1798 respectively.²

Probably a large party assembled for this migration, many of them related by blood ties. Danger from Indians was less at this time than at any time previous, since the treaty which ended the War of 1812 had been signed the year before on December 24, 1814.

The party traveled first by horseback and on foot to Maysville, Kentucky. From there, the natural highway westward was the Ohio River. Floating down its broad levels in flatboats, they would still keep a sharp outlook for Indians along the banks. They would remember many stories current of Indian attacks on river travelers within the years just past. Danger was present also in the river itself, however placid and beautiful it looked in the morning mists: danger in sandbars, in rock ledges, in sunken logs, in submerged trees which lifted their dead sharp branches at intervals with the current, or, worse still, did not show themselves but were ready at any time to rip through the bottom of a boat or impale it on a sharp point.

After days countering these hazards, a landing was made on the Indiana side, probably near Fort Finney, where at Jeffersonville preparations could be made for the northward journey by land into the interior. Every migration party in those days must have been sustained in confidence and determination by the thought, "We are not alone. Others have gone before us. Still others will come after us."

The principal path northward was the old Indian trail which had been used by the Delaware, the Miami, and the Potawatomi. The white men made early use of these old,

² In 1818, Samuel Scott, Sr. bought town lots in Bloomington, Indiana. F. S. Battey and Co., *Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown, Indiana* (Chicago, 1884), 453. Letter from John Leonard Scott to Ira R. Tabor, October 17, 1918, in Purl A. Scott collection of family papers. Facts about this family are found in the papers relative to the settlement of the estate of Samuel Scott, Sr. in the County Clerk's office, Morgan County Courthouse, Martinsville, Indiana, Complete Record Book, B, Morgan County, 1833, pp. 29-41. William's birth date is calculated from that of Samuel, William being the elder. Samuel Scott, Junior's birth date is shown by the inscription on his gravestone in Wesley Chapel Cemetery near Scottland, Illinois: "Samuel Scott died December 19, 1870, aged 77 years, 2 m's, 15 days."

well-established paths. Oliver H. Smith gave a brief vivid picture of travel in Indiana in 1817. All travel was by foot or on horseback. He wrote about the "winding Indian paths when the bear, the deer and the wolf sprang up" before him.³

After many days of travel and nights of camping along the trail, the Scott family reached a spot on a branch of the East Fork of the White River, where they decided to settle, at least for a time. The branch was called Salt Creek. Later this region was named Salt Creek Township in Jackson County. Brownstown, the county seat, was established in 1816.⁴

Near Salt Creek the Scotts found new friends in the family of William Tabor, who had come to this region sometime between 1788 and 1793, shortly after the general migration to the Northwest Territory began. He was, in fact, a "squatter," with no governmental authority for settling where he did, and no intention of giving up any part of the land he occupied through his own private arrangements with the Indians. Several years earlier he had come from Germany as a young man, probably first to Pennsylvania, and later through Virginia to Indiana. He had settled on high ground above a branch of Salt Creek, which soon became known as Tabor's Mound, and the stream as Tabor Branch.⁵

Here he married and began to raise a family on the farm he was carving from the wilderness. In 1815 his family consisted of his wife and four children: Jesse, aged twenty-one, Rebecca aged twelve, Isaac about five years old, and Martin aged four.⁶

³ Seymour Dunbar, *A History of Travel in America* (New York, 1937), 651; Oliver H. Smith, *Early Indiana Trials and Sketches* (Cincinnati, 1858), 287.

⁴ Brant and Fuller, *History of Jackson County, Indiana* (Chicago, 1886), 328.

⁵ William Tabor's eldest son Jesse was born in Jackson County in 1794, according to the records of Jesse's grandson, Ira R. Tabor, attorney in Davenport, Iowa. Letter from Ira R. Tabor to Purl A. Scott, July 19, 1928. See also, letter of John Leonard Scott to Ira R. Tabor, October 17, 1918.

⁶ It has been impossible to learn the name or the exact marriage date of William Tabor's first wife as there are no public records of marriages in this region at that time. Rebecca Tabor Scott's gravestone in Wesley Chapel Cemetery, near Scotland, Illinois, bears the inscription, "Died Feb. 7, 1886, aged 83 yrs, 3 days." Birth dates for which no record exists can be approximately calculated from records of marriage dates. Few men married before they were twenty-one, although girls married earlier, usually around the age of fifteen. Gilbert H. Doane, *Searching for Your Ancestors* (Minneapolis, 1948), gives an interesting discussion of this problem.

Having been so long established in the new territory, the Tabor family must have been of great help to Samuel Scott, Sr. and his sons and daughters. The young people were near the same ages. William at twenty-four and Samuel at twenty-two would welcome the friendship of Jesse Tabor. Rebecca at twenty and Elizabeth at seventeen added those delightful elements of companionship which girls can always give to their brothers and their friends. Isaac and Martin Tabor were "the little boys," but young Rebecca Tabor at twelve was undoubtedly beginning to feel herself to be more than a child and quite ready to enjoy the friendship of the Scott sisters. The young men and their fathers would soon have raised a log cabin for their shelter. They would get ready for winter and plan what to do as soon as spring came on.

The dark forest was all around them. It was still Indian country. The land occupied by these earliest settlers bordered on the ancient hunting grounds of the Miami, who were considered to be hostile. The Delaware and Shawnee were generally considered friendly, but, from the white man's point of view, they too were "treacherous." In 1816, Indiana was admitted to statehood, but it took five years more before what is now Jackson County could be lawfully called the white man's country.⁷

When the log cabin for the newcomers was finished, the Scotts must have been thankful and happy with their new home and their new friends. Rebecca would be doing her best with Elizabeth's help to take their mother's place in keeping their father and their two brothers fed and clothed. In those days, women had few if any idle hours.

The long winter evenings must have been pleasant before the big fireplaces in the cabins, where the supply of fuel never failed as long as there were strong men to chop down the trees and split the logs. A man could feel good chopping his daily supply, or building up a reserve stock on his woodpile. "Wood chopping warms you twice," they used to say. He knew he was doing two good things at once: keeping his

⁷ *History of Jackson County*, 315; Dunbar, *History of Travel in America*, 443, 463, 475. Three excellent maps show the growth of the white man's country through acquisition of Indian lands. These are reproductions of the map prepared by John Melish in 1817, another map showing Indiana in 1820, and a third map showing Indiana in 1827 from a *New General Atlas*, published by Anthony Finley at Philadelphia, 1827.

family warm for the present and clearing his ground for future planting.

Wood fires and stories have always gone together since the first cave men sat in the light of their fires before their caves and told the adventures of the day's hunting. Literature may be said to have begun in the light of a fire.

William Tabor had many stories to tell. One of them concerned his earliest days at Tabor Mound. The Indians were very bad at that time and the few settlers had built a blockhouse on Tabor Mound and all moved into it. Because of the tribesmen it was very dangerous for anyone to leave the blockhouse. Then one of the company died. Five men were detailed to take the corpse out and bury it. They succeeded in their mission, but when the party returned from the grave, the Indians fired on them, killing their leader. The other four men made their escape back to the blockhouse.⁸

When the War of 1812 began, there were ninety-three families in Jackson County. Seventy families immediately fled from the country. Twenty-three families remained to see it through. These were the families of William Graham, Jesse B. Durham, John Griffiths, John Berry, Daniel McCoy, Samuel Slade, John Sage, Samuel Burcham, James McGee, Abraham Miller, Daniel Beem, Aquila Rogers, David Rogers, John Storm, Robert Sturgeon, James Hutcheson, John Johnson, Abraham Huff, John Ketchum, William Ruddick, John Parker, a family named Willson, and the family of William Tabor. "This little band got themselves together and built forts at convenient distances and locations . . . one at Burcham's, one at Huff's near the mouth of Huff's Creek, one near Wallonia and at other convenient points."⁹

In the fall of 1812 the terrible massacre occurred at Pigeon Roost, when a band of Indians suddenly appeared at the settlement and killed twenty of the settlers, almost all women and children.

William Tabor had taken his family to Fort Vallonia for protection. Here they remained in comparative safety for a short time. Then an outbreak of fever made the fort, too, a doubtful refuge. Between redmen in the forest and fever

⁸ Told by Isaac Tabor to John Leonard Scott. Letter in Purl A. Scott Collection of family papers.

⁹ *History of Jackson County*, 315.

at the fort, William preferred to meet the enemy he could see. The Tabors went back to their cabin home on Tabor Branch and "with the aid of four fierce dogs and an old rifle, William protected those dependent on him" until the war was over.¹⁰

To the question, "What did you do in the Revolution?" a fabled Frenchman at the turn of the century is said to have replied, "I lived through it." Any survivor of the twenty-three courageous families who remained in Jackson County during the War of 1812 might have made the same reply as adequate evidence of his valor and patriotism.

The Scotts were always land hungry. Samuel Scott, Sr. soon began to look about for new opportunities. The land in Monroe County lying south of the old Indian boundary line had been surveyed in the autumn of 1812 and thrown into the market in 1816. In this year, Samuel, Sr. entered Section 34. The land was still legally the property of the Indians until October, 1818, when it was ceded to the government as part of the "New Purchase."¹¹

Among the earliest residents of Bloomington Township, Monroe County, were Samuel Scott, Sr. and John Scott, who left Jackson County at this time, to be followed later by others of the family group. John and David Scott, brothers, and probably cousins of Samuel Senior's children, were members of the group who had come from Kentucky together.¹²

Meanwhile, Samuel, Sr. had married again, probably about 1817, and about 1818 a son was born and was named David, in honor of his cousin, John's brother, who soon began to be referred to as David B.¹³

¹⁰ Chapman Brothers, *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois* (Chicago, 1889), 914.

¹¹ *Counties of Morgan, Monroe and Brown*, 372, 452, 451.

¹² The activities of John and David Scott run parallel with those of Samuel Scott, Sr. and Samuel, Jr. in Jackson County, Monroe County, and Morgan County.

¹³ Samuel Scott, Senior's second marriage is evidenced by references to Samuel Scott, Junior's "Half-brother" in "Edgar County Pioneers," The Chrisman, Illinois, *Courier*, February 16, 1922. This is Isaac Scott's account of his father. The date of the marriage and the birth date of young David are calculated from the record of young David's marriage in Marriage Record Book A, Morgan County, Indiana, 481. Young David was still a minor in 1834 when the estate of Samuel Scott, Sr., his father, was settled. Complete Record Book B, Morgan County, Indiana, 34.

In numerous other ways, 1818 was an interesting year for the Scott family. Since there were only thirty families in Bloomington in 1818, every competent man was expected to accept responsibility and do his best for all. On April 18 was brought forward the first petition for a county road "to extend from Bloomington to Scott's Ferry on Salt Creek and thence to the Lawrence County line." John was one of the three appointed viewers. When in May the report of the viewers was accepted and the road ordered built, Samuel Scott and two others were appointed road supervisors. John Scott was one of the first grand jurors of Monroe County, and Samuel was on the traverse jury.¹⁴

Meanwhile, in Jackson County on May 22, 1818, David Scott had married Holley Skinner, "by consent of her father." The young couple apparently left Brownstown at once for Bloomington. The first Circuit Court of Monroe County was held in June, 1818, and David took a place on the first petit jury.¹⁵

Another marriage in Brownstown, of more immediate interest to the writer, was that of Samuel Scott, Jr. to young Rebecca Tabor on October 6, 1818. Rebecca was fifteen years old and Samuel twenty-five when the justice of the peace, James McTagertt, performed the simple ceremony "by consent of her father she being of Lawful Age." The clerk apparently wrote all names as they sounded to him. Rebecca's name is spelled "Rebekah Tabour" in License 49, and "Rebecah Tabor" when the bonds were solemnized the next day.¹⁶

Rebecca was the first of the Tabor children to marry. When her oldest brother Jesse was married on May 24, 1819, to Theresa Skinner, of the same family as David Scott's wife, Holley, Theresa's name was spelled "Treasey," probably her nickname. Through the years this name became so misunderstood by her descendants that it came out in 1928 as "Lucretia."

Samuel, Jr. and Rebecca remained for a few months near her parents in Jackson County, but in 1819, when the country in Monroe County lying north of the old Indian

¹⁴ *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 455, 375.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 376, Marriage Books A and B, Jackson County Indiana, 11.

¹⁶ Early Marriage Record Book A, Jackson County, Indiana, 13. This is the original book, later copied in Marriage Books A. and B.

boundary line was surveyed, they moved to Bloomington and Samuel, Jr. entered land in Township 9, North, Range 1 West. There on July 13, 1819, Samuel, Jr. and Rebecca's first son was born and named William for Samuel, Jr.'s older brother.¹⁷

The forest still surrounded them for many miles on every side. Sixty miles to the northeast, in the year of 1820, a tiny village sprang up under the grand name of Indianapolis, a name made large like the clothes of pioneer children to allow for future growth. There were no roads to connect it to other parts of the newly admitted state of Indiana. In 1824, Indianapolis could boast of 600 inhabitants all living along a single street. In 1825 it became the capital of the state.

Before the birth of their second son, John, on September 6, 1820, Samuel and Rebecca had moved along with the entire Scott clan to Washington Township, Morgan County, twenty miles north of Bloomington. Here there were only a few settlers. The Cutlers had come in the fall of 1819. The next year brought several other families. Samuel Scott, Jr. on January 9, 1821, entered land in "Section 4, Township 11, Range 1, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$."¹⁸

The Scotts built their cabins in the White River bottom south of the present site of Centerton. George Matthews from North Carolina was said to have been the first man to build his cabin in this settlement. It stood one-fourth mile northeast of the present site of Centerton. "Almost while he was cutting his cabin logs, came Isaiah Drury, of Ohio; Alexander Cox, of Pennsylvania; John Stipp, of Virginia; and Samuel Scott, of Kentucky."¹⁹

The settlement soon came to be called the Matthews and Drury Neighborhood. The families were friends as well as neighbors. The names of George Matthews' sons, Calvin, Alfred, James, and George, were often associated with those of Samuel Scott, Jr., John, and David B. in the activities of the region. It seems likely that Samuel and Rebecca's third

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 16; *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 373; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 1067.

¹⁸ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 1019; *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 80, 82.

¹⁹ "Pioneers of Morgan County," *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, V, 264-65.

son, Calvin, born on January 31, 1822, was named for Calvin Matthews.²⁰

Samuel, Junior's sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth Scott, were married, apparently soon after the arrival of the family in Morgan County. Rebecca became the wife of Thomas Wall and Elizabeth married Summerly Cunningham.²¹

Meanwhile an important new project was in progress, the location of the county seat of Morgan County. Five public-spirited men in the vicinity were willing to offer more than enthusiasm to secure its location. Joel Ferguson and Jacob Cutler gave thirty-seven and one half acres; John Gray, Joshua Taylor, and Samuel Scott, Jr. gave forty acres each for the new town since they had entered land near the proposed site. In March, 1822, the location was completed, and Martinsville became the county seat of Morgan County.²²

Lot sales were held in June, August, and November of 1822. All the donors bought lots in these sales. About six families built houses on the town site in 1822. Jacob Cutler's log house, built in 1820, was the first house in town. The first courts of Morgan County convened in his house.²³

On July 2, 1822, Samuel Scott, Jr. was appointed Justice of the Peace, one of the earliest in the County. From August 18, 1824, until his death in 1833, Samuel Scott, Sr. was commissioned as Coroner in Morgan County. When the Second Circuit Court convened on September 23, 1822, both Samuel Scott, Jr. and his father, Samuel Scott, Sr., served on the Grand Jury. Ten cases came before the court at this session, eight of them charges of assault and battery. Each Grand Juror, as well as the Bailiff, Abraham Keedy, was paid seventy-five cents for the day.²⁴

Samuel Scott, Jr. sometimes appeared in court in other capacities. On August 20, 1822, he was recorded as a witness against one George W. Preston, who "with force and arms did unlawfully sell and retail one quart of spiritous liquors

²⁰ Records of John L. Scott, son of Calvin.

²¹ Papers relative to the settlement of the estate of Samuel Scott, Sr., Complete Record Book B, Morgan County, Indiana, 29-41.

²² *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 81, 82; "Pioneers of Morgan County," *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, V, 247.

²³ *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 83.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 16-17, *Indiana Executive Proceedings, Morgan County, Indiana, 1829-1832*, p. 223; *ibid.*, 1824-1827, pp. 535, 537.

commonly called whisky to one Samuel Scott for money, to wit twenty cents, to be drank at the place where sold, George W. Preston being without a license."²⁵

Remembering the free flow of "spiritous liquors" at this period and the fact that county boards often furnished free whisky at land sales,²⁶ one wonders if much "force and arms" were necessary in the above instance.

On October 7, 1823, Samuel Scott, Jr. was a defendant in a suit brought by James Cutler, in which Samuel had to pay a debt of \$6.25 and costs, thirty-seven and one-half cents to the Justice of Peace and a similar amount to the Circuit Court.²⁷ The trouble had begun on June 19, and is probably an instance of the stubborn pride of the man in holding out on what he must have considered an unfair charge.

On September 7, 1827, Samuel had words with one John Morrison, and the Sheriff of Morgan County was ordered "to take John Morrison if he be found in your bailwick, and him safely keep so that you have his body before the judges of our Morgan County court on the first day of our next term to be held in the courthouse of the town of Martinsville, on the last Monday of February next, to Samuel Scott, Jr. in action in the case for slanderous words spoken to his damage, \$5000. No bail required without the judge's order." This case was dismissed at the cost of the defendant, who was ordered "to pay \$5000 within 30 days, and on failure, that he be attached."²⁸

In his capacity as Justice of the Peace on November 15, 1827, Samuel Scott, Jr. officiated at the marriage of John Scott to Elizabeth Olds. Samuel's older brother William had married Elizabeth Jones on January 20, 1823. With Samuel and William's sister Elizabeth, married to Summerly Cunningham, there were now three Elizabeths in the Scott clan with the two Rebeccas, two Williams, two Johns, and three Davids, not to mention the two Samuel Scotts. When Samuel and Rebecca's fifth son was born, early in 1829, he was named Josephus.²⁹

²⁵ Order Book, Morgan County, Indiana, Circuit Court, August 20, 1822.

²⁶ *Counties of Monroe, Morgan and Brown*, 453.

²⁷ Order Book, Morgan County, Indiana, Circuit Court, 39.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 413.

²⁹ Marriage Record Book A, Morgan County, Indiana, 56, 4; Grave-stone in Woodland Cemetery, Chrisman, Illinois.

One of the most important activities in the region around Martinsville was the initiation of pioneer commerce. Among the pioneers who ran the first broadhorns down the rivers to New Orleans—through the White River, the Wabash, the Ohio, and the Mississippi, a distance of eighteen hundred miles—were Samuel Scott, Jr., John Scott, David B. Scott, and their friends the Matthews brothers and others from the Matthews and Drury Neighborhood. John was mentioned as “the most skillful steersman . . . on the big rivers” by Noah J. Major, who has left a most interesting account of this phase of Morgan County life.³⁰

John Scott owned and operated the first ferryboat across the White River between Martinsville and Mooresville, near his home. The ferry operated with sweep oars and setting poles.³¹ There exists a curious document by which John was brought into court to answer a charge that he had “so suffered and persecuted the banks of the said White River at said Ferry Landing as to be impossible for man and horse and loaded wagons.” John pleaded not guilty to the charge and was at once acquitted.³² Apparently the twelve good men of the jury were realists.

Samuel and Rebecca had lived in Morgan County for ten years. The country was filling up. The new community was well established. Samuel began to feel the old restlessness, the eagerness to move on farther west to new territory. Occasional travelers had brought back enthusiastic accounts of the broad open prairies, the rich black soil, the groves of fine timber, the God’s plenty of pheasants, turkeys, geese, and other kinds of game in the wonderful country beyond the Wabash in the new state of Illinois.

Samuel determined to make the move, remarking that he did not like to live so close to a village. The boys were excited at the thought of a long journey. William was ten years old now, John nine, Calvin seven, and David five. Josephus, the baby, was only a few months old. Plans were made, Samuel sold out his holdings, a sale disposed of house-

³⁰ “Pioneers of Morgan County,” *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, V, 395-409.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 275.

³² Complete Record Book B, Morgan County, Indiana, November Term, 1836.

hold goods which they could not take with them, and in May, 1829, the journey to Illinois began.³³

One can imagine the early morning preparations: the breakfast by candlelight, the excitement of the children, the wagon being loaded, Rebecca stepping about briskly and cheerfully as usual, directing the packing, saying never a word of what she felt in her heart. Samuel attending to the forty head of cattle they had decided to take with them probably thought of the road they would travel, saw that the wagon and teams were in good condition, and kept his mind on the immediate needs of the journey.

Today, a hundred and twenty-four years later, the great-grandchildren of Samuel and Rebecca can cover the whole distance by automobile in a Sunday jaunt. But in 1829, it was a different story. Dangers and privations lay ahead; friends left behind would be rarely heard from, seldom if ever seen again; and no one could be sure how the venture would turn out. The story of this family was the story of nearly every pioneer family who helped open up the near West to civilization.

They made the journey overland with teams, camping and cooking along the wayside and sleeping in their wagon at night. Rebecca and the younger children rode in the wagon, while Samuel and Billy walked ahead driving the cattle. "The roads were poor, through swamps and over hills, fording creeks and ferrying rivers. There were few bridges. Sometimes the streams were so swollen by spring rains that the travellers had to wait several days for the water to go down."³⁴ The old pioneer proverb, "Never change horses in the middle of a stream," was immediate and practical advice to them. When their provisions gave out they shot their meat as they needed it. The cattle ate the grass along the way.

The woods were filled with wild life and infested with wolves. John was sometimes able to count as many as a hundred wolves at one time. At night the children could see

³³ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 841; Wm LeBaron, Jr., & Co., *History of Edgar County, Illinois* (Chicago, 1879), "Samuel Scott." Also, W. D. Scott, *A History of a Branch of the Scott Family*, a manuscript in the Purl A. Scott Collection of family papers.

³⁴ *History of Edgar County, Illinois*. Description of conditions at this time.

their gleaming eyes in the wide circle of the black dark around their campfire. In the morning and early evening, David loved to watch the deer bounding by in the forest. Once he counted fifty in one herd.³⁵

At last, after long weeks of travel the day came when they crossed the Illinois Line and soon they reached the edge of the timber at the present location of Quaker Point, Indiana.³⁶ They made camp and prepared to stay for a while and look around. The open prairie lay before them—the land of promise. Its name was Prairie Township, Edgar County.

Eight years later in a little book of "Suggestions to Emigrants" in *Illinois in 1837*, an early traveler in this region said: "The prairies of Illinois may be classed under three general divisions:—the healthy, or bushy; the alluvial, or wet; and the dry, or undulating. Those designated healthy have springs of water and are covered with bushes of hazel and furze, small sassafras shrubs, interspersed with grapevines, and in the season of flowers a rich profusion of gay, herbaceous plants. Early in March the forests are in blossom, and the brilliant red tufts of the Judas tree (*cercis candensis*) handsomely exhibit its charms. The *Lonicera Flava* or yellow-flowered honeysuckle, diffuses its pleasant fragrance, and the lovely yellow jasmine, or *Jasminum fruticans* impregnates the air with its delicious perfume. The alluvial, or wet prairies . . . have soil that is deep, black, friable, and of exhaustless fertility. From May to October the prairies are covered with tall grass and flower-producing weeds. In June and July, they seem like an ocean of flowers. There are numerous ponds."³⁷

It was now early summer. Probably the travelers continued for some weeks to live in their wagon. On their first night they had accepted the hospitable invitation extended to them by a family named Jones, probably Jacob Jones, to stay at their cabin.³⁸ The younger children could play together, while the women could do the cooking and washing under the shade of the great trees.

³⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 1019, 1082.

³⁶ W. D. Scott, *History of a Branch of the Scott Family*.

³⁷ *Illinois in 1837* (Philadelphia, 1837), 119-21.

³⁸ W. D. Scott, *History of a Branch of the Scott Family*.

As in Caesar's famous passage: "All things had now to be done by Caesar at one time." Along with the willing and welcome help of other settlers, there was more than enough work to keep everyone in the family busy from morning to night. The cattle were turned out to graze on the prairie with young Billy and Jack to herd them. Dave could play with the two smaller boys and see that they did not stray too far away from the wagon. A new log house must be built before winter.

The new cabin was to be larger than the ones they had left in Indiana. It was to be built of the same kind of split logs, notched to fit in place; it was to have a clapboard roof and windows covered with oiled paper, a wide fireplace, and chimney. There was also to be a loft where the boys could sleep, and a ladder to reach the loft-hole.

When the log house was finished and the family had settled, Samuel rode on his horse over the surrounding country to look over the land. There were many ponds and much of what he saw was marshy. Fish abounded in the ponds and rattlesnakes were numerous. Another settler reported that he had killed seventy-five rattlesnakes on his land in one year. He mentioned a blue-flowered weed that they boiled in milk and drank for snake bites.³⁹ The marshy lands bred many mosquitoes—some of them "big enough to stand flat-footed and drink out of a rain barrel," as the saying went. Much of the land was covered with the coarse prairie grass which grew higher than the head of a man on horseback.

But the rich black loam was there—virgin land. The deep fertility of hundreds of years lay ready for use as soon as the land could be broken by the plow. And over it all arched the wide blue sky with high clouds and a fresh breeze blowing. Here a man could look straight out over the rim of the earth in any direction. He knew who he was and where he was going.

But the land would first have to be ditched and drained. That would take time and co-operation. Meanwhile, the prairie was a perfect pasture for cattle. They could graze far and wide now, before all the land had been taken up. Cattle

³⁹ James Loop's reminiscences as told to Marie Runge, "Metcalf, Hume, and Scotland," *Terre Haute Sunday Tribune and Sunday Star*, November 9, 1941.

and horses seemed to thrive on the prairie grass. Samuel decided to buy and feed cattle.

Most of the early immigrants to Edgar County, Illinois, came from the heavily-wooded regions of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. They settled on the edge of the timber because the trees reminded them of their old homes.⁴⁰ Their fathers had cleared away the forest, and they expected to do the same.

Samuel Scott was among the first to buy land out on the prairie. Almost the whole of the township, except the fringe of timber along Brouillett's Creek, was prairie, and it was here that Samuel secured his land, by entry and purchase, from the United States government.

One of Samuel's early warrants, a tough old "sheepskin," Certificate 2557, attests that the United States of America "have given and granted, and by these Presents Do give and grant, unto the said Samuel Scott and to his heirs, the said tract above described, To Have and To Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Samuel Scott and to his heirs and assigns forever." It bears the sprawling, underscored signature of Andrew Jackson.⁴¹ There is a tinge of red where the big seal of the Land Office at Palestine used to be. The date is June 13, 1831. The price was \$1.25 an acre. Any thrifty man could buy.

Although the family had settled into their new home, the log house could be improved and made more comfortable now that winter lessened the amount of outdoor work. Of course, there was always wood to be chopped, meat to be provided from the plentiful wild game, the cattle to be fed night and morning. Rail fences had been laid to pen them in. Wild grasses had been gathered and stored to feed them.

But the grass proved to be the wrong kind. They had saved "that which was most abundant and least valuable. The forty head of cattle nearly all died during that first winter, which was one of unusual severity." The old record

⁴⁰ *History of Edgar County, Illinois.*

⁴¹ After this date land grants were frequently signed by the secretary of the President. This signature, however, proves by comparison with Andrew Jackson's unquestioned signatures, to be authentic.

goes on to say: "But undismayed by this, as well as by many other adversities, they pushed steadily onward, regardless of untold difficulty, and by dint of energy and industry, they could soon see their way clear."⁴² These words could be the memorial of every pioneer family.

Before the winter was over, Rebecca's sixth son was born and named Franklin. He was the first of the Scott children to be born in Illinois. Andrew Jackson Scott was born June 1, 1833, and Lafayette on March 27, 1836.⁴³ The loft was filling up with boys.

Meanwhile, Samuel carried out his plans for raising cattle on a large scale. He purchased them in the South every spring in order to take advantage of the summer grass. He had learned from hard experience, and he knew now how to feed them during the winter. When they had reached the desired weight, he drove them through a hundred and twenty-five miles north to a little hamlet called by the Ojibwa Chicago. In 1823 it contained five small stores and 250 inhabitants. Between the village and the lake the United States had established Fort Dearborn and garrisoned it, until the expulsion of the Indians after the Black Hawk War, with about three companies of regular troops. Here, Samuel regularly disposed of his cattle at a "good round sum." One of the boys went with him each trip to help drive the cattle. David and Jack long remembered those trips.

A neighbor of Samuel's, Horatio Blanchard, who had settled in Edgar County in 1830, has left a detailed record of his first trip to Chicago. A close observer with a keen recognition of history in the making, he walked to Chicago in 1832 to be there at the signing of the treaty. He remained there for a few months and then walked back the hundred and twenty-five miles to his log house on the east of Brouillett's Creek. The following year, to obtain money to pay for his land, he repeated the trip and was employed on the first brick building in Chicago, a warehouse built by Henry and Gurdon S. Hubbard. Blanchard's trip to Chicago was through a wild and unsettled country. He said the distance between

⁴² "William Scott." *History of Edgar County, Illinois*.

⁴³ "Lafayette Scott," *ibid.*; *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 913. Gravestone in Wesley Chapel Cemetery near Scotland, Illinois.

houses was often twenty-five miles. But "every family was a tavern. A traveller was always sure of a welcome and a fare of cornbread, bacon, and milk."⁴⁴

Samuel's cattle business had been a success for many years before the land could be used for farming. He knew, however, that the time would come when the black land would be valuable. Much of the money the cattle brought in was put into the purchase and entry of more and more land.

Meanwhile, Samuel had made many improvements in his home place. Barns were built, more shelters for stock, outhouses, a smokehouse to cure the meat when they butchered a hog or a beef. Better furniture was provided for Rebecca's house, better beds, chests, chairs, and tables to replace the three-legged stools and slab tables they had started with.

In the winters six of the boys were going to school. In 1837, Billy was eighteen, John seventeen, Calvin, fifteen, and Dave thirteen. The "little boys," Josephus and Franklin, were eight and seven. Andy and Lafayette were still too young for school. The school house was a log cabin with slab benches and puncheon floor. The teachers were paid on the subscription plan, each family paying according to the number of youngsters they sent. They learned reading and ciphering. Spelling was considered important, too, and "writing a good hand." In the summer the boys herded cattle on the prairie and did their full share of work at home.⁴⁵

Wolf hunts furnished great sport for the youth of the region. Wolves were very destructive to young pigs and chickens, and would sneak up even to the farm yards to kill them. Grown hogs were usually safe enough and could run in the timber and fatten on the wild mast found there. John was one of the leaders in the wolf hunts. He liked to go hunting on old "Rube"—the best horse on the prairie, he said—accompanied by his favorite chum, Abraham Smith. One day they killed ten wolves and shot a great many deer, besides other game including prairie chickens.⁴⁶

Some kinds of work were fun, too, like butchering time. When hogs were butchered, neighbors would come from

⁴⁴ "Horatio Blanchard," *History of Edgar County, Illinois*.

⁴⁵ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 913ff, 1019ff.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

miles around to help. The big iron kettles would be brought out into the yard and fires built under them. One would heat water to scald the carcasses to remove the bristles. The other kettle was used for rendering the lard. After being hung up over night to air out, the meat would be cut up into hams and shoulders, sidemeat, heads, and feet. The feet would be pickled, the heads would make "head-cheese," the hams, shoulders, and sidemeat would be salted down in barrels. Each neighbor would be given a generous portion to thank him for his aid. Later, when the meat was sufficiently salted, it would be hung from the rafters of the smoke house over a smudge fire of hickory chips for several days until each piece had a good brown coat.⁴⁷

One fall morning the hired man, who had gone early to the barn, came running back to the house. "Uncle Sam! There's a man in the well!" Samuel and all the big boys rushed out. A new well was being dug in the back yard. It had gone down about twenty feet but they had not struck water yet. A wide board had been laid over the hole to keep animals from falling in, in the night. When Samuel stooped over to look into the well, he was surprised to see, sitting on the muddy bottom, a supposedly respectable neighbor. Beside him lay one of the hickory-smoked hams. The boys crowded round to see. "Why, it's Mr. N—!" one of them said. Samuel straightened up and said calmly to the hired man, "Get a ladder, Alex." The ladder was brought and lowered. "Come on up, Mr. N—," Samuel said. Mr. N— slowly climbed to the surface. "But, Mr. N—" Samuel said quietly, "You've forgotten your ham. Go down again and get it." Mr. N— cast a wild glance out across the meadow and then back at the circle of grave-faced boys. Then he slowly backed down the ladder again and came up even more slowly with the ham, which he laid down on the edge of the well. "Pick it up, Mr. N—," Samuel said, "That's what you came here for." Nobody said anything more as the miserable little man walked across the yard and through the gate and down the meadow slope toward his home. That was the last anyone in this region ever saw of Mr. N. They heard he had gone farther West.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Reminiscences of Samuel Scott, Jr, 1866-1950.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.* Told to Samuel Scott, Jr. by his father Josephus Scott, remembering his own childhood.

On December 15, 1837, the eight boys received a wonderful early Christmas gift—a baby sister. Her lovely name, Sarena, seems fitting for a dark-eyed little girl with eight adoring big brothers. When she was six years old the last brother, Isaac, was born. So Sarena had nine brothers like a princess in a fairy tale.⁴⁹

As time went on, Samuel turned his attention to the drainage projects on the wide acres he now owned. But these laborious projects were very slowly achieved. The prairie grass was very rank. Its thickly clustered roots held the water and the high growth of the grass kept out the sun.

First the settlers put in three-inch tile, which proved worthless. They drove oxen to make “under ditches,” and later put in eighteen and twenty-inch tile, which helped some, but the land was never really fit for plowing until the dredge ditches were put in. In 1849 a neighbor, Shepherd B. Smith, at nineteen, operated a ditching-machine. “I’ve been all over the country,” an old settler said, “and this is the best in the world . . . since we got it ditched.”⁵⁰

Andrew Scott remembered breaking prairie in the late forties, when he was fifteen or sixteen years old. He drove five yoke of oxen, later plowing with one yoke with a wooden, moldboard plow, and harrowing with a wooden harrow.⁵¹

Four of his father’s oxen were named Tom, Jerry, Buck, and Berry.⁵² Perhaps two others were named Bright and Ben. Everybody’s oxen bore the same names. There was something about an ox that made you want to name him with a B. They said you could tell if your oxen were moving or not by setting a hazel switch, or a goad, upright in the ground and then from a few paces away, sighting along the horns of the leader of the first team. They were very slow but they had magnificent strength.

Slowly with long hard work on the part of every member of the family, all of Samuel’s land was brought into culti-

⁴⁹ Gravestone of Sarena Scott Dicken in Wesley Chapel Cemetery, near Scotland, Illinois; James Loop’s reminiscences as told to Marie Runge, “Metcalf, Hume, and Scotland,” *Terre Haute Sunday Tribune and Sunday Star*, November 9, 1941.

⁵⁰ “Abraham Smith,” *History of Edgar County, Illinois*; James Loop’s reminiscences as told to Marie Runge, “Metcalf, Hume, and Scotland,” *Terre Haute Sunday Tribune and Sunday Star*, November 9, 1941.

⁵¹ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 913ff.

⁵² *Reminiscences of Samuel Scott, Jr. (1866-1950)*.

vation, with the exception of some stretches of meadow and woodland for grazing.

Then, all at once it may have seemed to Rebecca, the boys were growing up and leaving home. They worked for their father until they came of age, and then in a year or two, each one married and set up for himself. William and John were both married in 1843. William bought and entered land in Prairie Township, as his father had done, and became in time the owner of a thousand acres. When the Indianapolis, Decatur, and Springfield Railroad went through in 1872, William gave the right of way from his farm, besides half the townsite of Scotland, which he had had plotted there and which he named for his father.⁵³

John made a specialty of feeding cattle and swine and later furnished large numbers of horses and mules to be used in the government service.⁵⁴ David and Calvin pushed on farther West, out to Jackson County, Iowa, where both married and where Calvin settled permanently.⁵⁵

At twenty-four Josephus married Eveline Wood, a pretty dark-haired, rosy-cheeked girl of fifteen. All of her children were to inherit her dark good looks. She was making her home with her older sister Florella and her husband, Benjamin Franklin Light. All her nieces and nephews remembered "Aunt Frilly" with warm affection. Frilly's little son Charles was then four years old.

They were living in the old Light homestead, erected in 1840 by Franklin's father, David Light, on 176 acres in Brouillett Township, adjoining Prairie. It was a very large, two-story house, with a wide double porch across both stories. It had eight rooms and a leanto kitchen, plenty of room for the many guests of the friendly people who lived there. Eveline's wedding took place on May 30, 1853.⁵⁶ David Light, himself, in his capacity of Justice of the Peace, married the young couple, and his wife Harriet was a witness.

⁵³ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 1067ff, 1019ff.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 1019ff.

⁵⁵ "David Scott," *ibid.* Also, manuscript reminiscences of John Leonard Scott, son of Calvin, in Purl A. Scott Collection of family papers.

⁵⁶ A photograph of this house still exists in the possession of the son of Charles Light. The writer saw the old house in 1908. The house was later torn down. Marriage Certificate of Josephus Scott and Eveline Wood in the writer's collection of family papers.

The red roses are still bright on the decorative certificate that attests these happy facts.

Josephus and his wife lived near Samuel and Rebecca for about ten years. Then they moved to their own farm, on the main-traveled road between Paris, the county seat, and Chicago. In 1856, Chicago covered eighteen square miles and, as one writer remarked, was "trying to pull itself out of the mud." After the panic of 1857, it was still described in 1860 as "one of the shabbiest and most unattractive of cities."

The young couple, however, were wholly absorbed in their own affairs. The big log house they now lived in had been erected about 1838, and until about 1860 had been a tavern, the "Half-Way House" between Paris and Danville and sometimes called by that name.⁵⁷ The proprietor was "Bobby" Nuckles, whose fame as a genial host lasted for years afterwards. The house faced east and like many taverns of the period, it had a porch, a very large general room with a great fireplace, and three very small bedrooms opening off to the left. One of these was made by enclosing the south end of the porch. The staircase in the northwest corner of the large room rose to two very large, half-story bedrooms covering the main part of the house. One of these had "accommodated" lady guests; the other, gentlemen.

The house could take care of a good many persons quite adequately, according to the standards of the time. When they moved to this house, there were already six in Josephus' and Eveline's family. Two daughters, Luellen and Henrietta, called Ellie and Ettie, had been born in 1857 and 1860; William, the first son in 1862; and Josephus, Jr., called "Seph" for short, on December 19, 1863. In the little bedroom at the end of the porch, Samuel was born on April 19, 1866.⁵⁸ Martha Rebecca, "Mattie," arrived in 1868, and young Eveline rounded out the family in 1870.

Meanwhile, "Uncle Andy" had married in 1857, leaving Grandmother Rebecca and Grandfather Samuel with only four of their brood at home. Lafayette was twenty-one years old, Sarena was twenty. By 1860 both had married.

⁵⁷ "History of War Tavern," *Chrisman Courier*. The date was not noted on the clipping.

⁵⁸ Gravestones in Woodland Cemetery, Chrisman, Illinois.

In 1862, Franklin enlisted in Company D of the Seventy-ninth Infantry of the Illinois Volunteers and served until June 24, 1865.⁵⁹

Lafayette, too, served in the Civil War and was a prisoner at Fort Anderson. In 1859 he had married Lucy Clark. Home from the war he settled down to the business of stock raising. Late in January of 1867 he started on the long journey by rail and river to take forty-five head of mules to Memphis.⁶⁰ He took with him his favorite horse, a cinnamon bay, to ride home on the return trip.

On the way Lafayette was taken ill, had a doctor at Cairo, Illinois, and in "three and three-fourths days" felt sufficiently recovered to continue his journey on the steamer "Commonwealth." He died on January 26, just as the boat landed at Memphis.

The facts of the return journey could not be more starkly set down than in the few words written on the receipt of the Adams Express Company, dated January 29, 1867 at Cairo: "One corpse, 1 sack, 1 C-Bay—Saddle, Bridle and Bu[shel] otes. Marked L. Scott."⁶¹

Isaac had married in 1866. He was the youngest member of the family and Rebecca and Samuel were left alone. Rebecca was sixty-three, Samuel ten years older. Rebecca had done all her own housework. She had helped in outdoor work when necessary. Her sons said that she had frequently cooked for twelve or fifteen *extra* men. She had sent out into the world to live useful lives, nine good sons and a daughter "skilled in all housewifely duties."⁶² Four grandsons were named Samuel Scott. There were several Rebeccas. Living among her married children and her grandchildren, Rebecca still had a keen zest for life.

Meanwhile, through the years, contact had not been completely lost with Rebecca's old home in Jackson County,

⁵⁹ Marriage dates from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*. They are listed under the Scott names. Sarena married William C. Dicken. "List of Company D of the 79th Infantry," *History of Edgar County, Illinois*. Also, grave marker in Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

⁶⁰ "Lafayette Scott," *History of Edgar County, Illinois*.

⁶¹ Paper in the settlement of the estate of Lafayette Scott, File 271, County Clerk's Office, Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois.

⁶² *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 913 ff, 1006 ff.

Indiana. Early in the 1850's three charming guests had arrived at the log house in the woods where Rebecca and Samuel still lived—three young people riding on horseback all the way from Indiana, Jackson, James, and Nancy Tabor, the three children of Rebecca's older brother Jesse. They were emigrating, they said, to Iowa. After a week with Aunt Rebecca and Uncle Sam, they went on to Vermilion County, Illinois, to visit their Uncle Isaac Tabor, Rebecca's younger brother, who had come to Illinois earlier to settle near his sister. Then the three travelers went on to Iowa to see their cousin, Calvin. James Tabor settled permanently in Iowa, but Jack later returned to Indiana. About Nancy it has been impossible to find any other information after this one vivid picture of the young girl with her brothers on their light-hearted journey.⁶³

In the spring of 1861 another pretty niece came to stay for a few months—young Mary Jane Tabor, one of the three orphaned daughters of Rebecca's younger brother Martin. She was married to Dennis Sayre, a young auctioneer, late that same spring.⁶⁴

In every Scott house the old hospitality still prevailed. At Half-Way House in winter the bedrooms were always cold so the children had to undress and dress before the fire downstairs. The bedrooms were lighted only by tallow candle stubs stuck by a few drops of wax on the window sills. But there was always room to tuck away another child. Blankets would be brought from the press, pallets would be spread on the floor and "You can roll up your clothes for a pillow." On several occasions, orphaned nieces and nephews of Josephus and Eveline came to visit and remained to grow up.⁶⁵

It was one of these young nephews who phrased what might well be considered the motto of Scott men generally. Called from play and sent to buy forgotten molasses, because Aunt Eveline would not eat her mush without it, he fired from the door, a parting shot: "Whatever Ma craves, she's got to have." Five years earlier in England, in his "Essay

⁶³ Reminiscences of Samuel Tabor, son of Isaac Tabor, preserved in a letter from John Leonard Scott to Ira R. Tabor in 1918. Copy in Collection of Purl A. Scott.

⁶⁴ "Israel D. Sayre," *History of Edgar County, Illinois*.

⁶⁵ Reminiscences of Samuel Scott, Jr. 1866-1950.

on the Subjection of Women," John Stuart Mill had solemnly declared: "Women are those to whom nothing but servitude is allowed," and "equality of rights would abate this artificial self-abnegation." Perhaps young Purl Wood would have put his own interpretation upon these ringing words.

Josephus, Sr., like his father, engaged in buying, feeding, and selling cattle. He was remembered by his children for his habit of crossing his left foot on his right knee and "figuring" on the high rubber boots he nearly always wore. He cut new pencils into two-inch stubs for his "figuring," and he always had the extras in his pocket to fish out for children who were then invited to write their names, "and let me see how well you can do it."⁶⁶

The baby daughter remembered, nearly eighty years later, how her father would come back from selling his cattle, with his saddlebags full of silver because he distrusted banks and did not like "greenbacks." He would sit by the fire counting his money and she would watch him. When he came to an occasional gold piece he would say, "Catch it, Baby!" and she would catch it in her pinafore. She had a little hoard of gold pieces hidden under a loose brick beside the fireplace.

Rebecca and Samuel had four years of quiet contentment among their children. In 1868, William had erected on his own land "a magnificent brick residence at a cost of \$12,000," a large sum for those days. But his wife Elizabeth (Legate) did not live long to enjoy it. She died on September 28, 1869. The next year on October 20, 1870, William married a second wife, Ada (Burr) Jaquith, a widow.⁶⁷

It was on a visit to William and Ada just before Christmas that year that Samuel died. He was seventy-seven years old. On November 23, he had made his will, appointing "my two sons William Scott and Josephus Scott of the County of Edgar and the State of Illinois Executors to settle my Estate."⁶⁸

Turning over the dusty papers in the file on the settlement of this estate, one can get a picture of the rugged simplicity of life in the log cabin where Samuel and Rebecca

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ "William Scott," *History of Edgar County, Illinois*.

⁶⁸ Will Book, 1870, Edgar County Courthouse Records, Paris, Illinois.

had their last home together. His sons would build their fine brick houses, but to Samuel the old way of life sufficed. His personal goods and chattels, "all taken by the widow" included: "Necessary Beds, Bedsteads and Bedding, Necessary Household and Kitchen furniture, One spinning wheel, One loom and its appendages, One pair cards, One stove and necessary pipe therefor, One horse, One woman's saddle and Bridle, Milch cow, Provisions for one year, 4 sheep and Fleeces (2 for each member of family), Food for the above stock for 6 mo., Fuel for 3 mo., A lot of Quilts and comforts, Press and contents, Bureau, Lot of Rug Carpet about 20 yds., 1 General Atlas, 1/2 doz. Kitchen Chairs, 1 safe, 1 lounge, 1 Kitchen Table and cover, 1 lamp and 3 woolen comforts, Light and Stand, 1 pair of mules." But Samuel's hunger for "good black land" had been satisfied. He left thirty-five hundred acres in Edgar County—"as good land as ever lay outdoors"—besides nearly a thousand acres in Kansas.⁶⁹

Another memorial, too, he left in the hearts of the early settlers of Edgar County. They said of him: "Many another man owes his start in life to Uncle Sammie's generosity and forbearance. He never pushed anyone in money matters and was always anxious to assist those who would try to help themselves. He had a large and generous heart and that high sense of honor which prevented him from ever defrauding any man and which ever inclined him to assist those less fortunate than himself."⁷⁰

⁶⁹ Papers in the settlement of the Estate of Samuel Scott, File 271, Edgar County, Illinois.

⁷⁰ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Vermilion and Edgar Counties, Illinois*, 913ff, 1067ff.