

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to James Scruggs and John Scruggs VAS4388
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

In the beginning of the year 1777 or latter end of 1776 I am not certain which John Scruggs & his son James enlisted as soldiers in the Continental army for the term of three years. The company was commanded by Capt. Hughes Woodson [R19215] of Powhatan County. Samuel Baskerville [S45238] was ensign, there were I think two lieutenants, one was named Ralph Booker I think. The name of the other I do not recollect. The company marched to the north & joined the army under General Washington & about the campaign of 1777. James Scruggs the young man, who with his father had lived in my father's family used to write to my father, which he requested him to do when they marched, & I recollect his receiving several letters from him; the last he received mentioned his James Scruggs's being in the actions of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] & Germantown [4 Oct 1777], stating also that his father was sickly & seldom able to do duty & lamenting his being in the army as it gave him much trouble & uneasiness; this letter I remember to have seen among my father's old papers many years after it was written. From his never having received a letter after that, my father concluded they were probably dead. He made enquiries after them from the officers & soldiers returning from the army & though I think he never received positive information of the fact, all he could gather concerng them led him to believe they died in the winter succeeding the action at Germantown, which took place on the 4th of October 1777 – as that of Brandywine did on the 11th of September preceding. Capt. Woodson did not stay long in the army, as well as I recollect Ensign Baskerville seved I think nearly or quite through the war. I knew them both whilst I practised law in Powhatan, particularly Baskerville, who lived near the court house, as indeed did Woodson also. I think my father received information from them or from Baskerville with whom they enlisted that the Scruggs's both died. Of this I am not certain, but make no doubt he enquired of Baskerville, as I have often heard him say he had never seen any one that saw them after death, yet from all he could learn they certainly died, which he had inferred from not having heard from them after the letter above mentioned written after the action of Germantown. I was very young at the time they enlisted (about 8 years old) but taking great interest in the military operations of the time & particularly in every thing relating to James Scruggs, who had lived with my father & was very fond of & kind to me, every circumstance made a strong impression on my mind. Though well acquainted in Powhatan I do not know that there is living at this time any officer or soldier who served with these men. I understood always, that the company was arranged to the 10th Virginia regiment on Continental establishment. I do not recollect who commanded that regiment. [signed] James Pleasants

P.S. I have [illegible] above of Powhatan as the county in which the enlistment of John & James Scruggs took place; I do not [illegible] recollect whether Powhatan had [illegible] been taken from Cumberland. My father resided then about [illegible] miles [several illegible words] Courthouse now is. JP
[22 Jan 1831]

NOTES:

A muster roll dated 31 May 1777 for the company of Capt. Tarlton Woodson (who had resigned and would be replaced by Lt. Hughes Woodson) in the 10th Virginia Continental Regiment commanded by Col. Edward Stevens lists James Scruggs as Sergeant and John Scruggs as Private.

Powhatan County was formed on 3 June 1777.